

Meet the Governors of Harting C of E Primary School

The Governors of Harting CofE Primary School would like to introduce themselves; giving some insight into who they are, why they are involved in the management and strategic direction of the school, their involvement in Committees and their terms of office.

Chair of Governors and Local Authority Governor – Jeff Ace

I have lived in the Harting and the Petersfield area since 1994 and had been the Local Authority Governor for just over 2 years before becoming Chair in the 2012/13 academic year.

My background is international business and on retiring trained and qualified as a secondary school mathematics teacher, GCSE and A Level, (PGCE).

Throughout my business career I encouraged learning at all levels, for self-improvement and the good of the business. This desire for continual education, learning and development I hope I bring to Governorship and to the benefit of all the pupils of Harting School.



Head Teacher and Governor (ex Officio) – Fiona Mullett

I have worked at Harting School since 2001. Initially this was a part-time teacher whilst I brought up my own children. I have now worked full-time for many years as a class teacher, SENCO and Deputy before become the Head teacher in 2014.

Prior to teaching, I worked for more than a decade at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, as a physiotherapist, which I loved too. This experience taught me about children's development and their needs, along with the importance of high standards and research.



I remain passionate about doing what is right for children and this motivates me in my work within the school.

Foundation Governor (Ex-Officio) Harriet Neale-Stevens - Rector of Harting with Elsted and Treyford cum Didling

I have recently moved to Harting to take up the post of Rector of Harting Parish Church. Prior to this I was the curate in Henfield in mid-Sussex where I worked extensively with the local primary school building links between the church and school, and getting involved in school life. In the past I have been involved in education work in the charity and arts sector and have degrees in Music and History of Art (as well as Theology!)

I am also a school parent so have an added interest in the school from a different perspective.

I am very much looking forward to being a governor of this wonderful school.



Co-opted Governor – Ciani Foulkes

Having lived in South Harting since 2004, I have grown to appreciate not only the natural beauty of its South Downs setting, but especially the strong sense of community, particularly where the children of the village are concerned.

I am originally from Romania. I relocated to the UK at the age of 18, completed a Business Studies degree and the professional Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) qualification.

Until my two children enrolled at the school in 2010 and 2012 respectively, I had little knowledge of the British primary level education system. I gradually became more and more involved with the school, from taking on the role of Treasurer for the PTFA to volunteering to listen to children read to agreeing to chair the Parents' Association in September 2013. The year as chair of the PTFA proved most rewarding and I was thrilled when offered the chance to become a Governor, thus ensuring my long term involvement with the school.

I hope my accountancy skills will benefit the administrative side of the governing body, while my passion for education, sport and technology will prove useful to the children of Harting School. learning. As a Governor, I look forward to being involved in the future development of the school and supporting the staff and children in whatever way I can.



Foundation Governor – Jane Thwaites

I moved to Elsted with my husband in 2012, after over 20 years living up the road, in Surrey. We love living here and are delighted to be part of the community.

I trained as a nurse back in the 1970s, then qualified as a Midwife and stayed working in that profession for over 20 years, finishing up as a supervisor and manager.

In 2000 I moved into community health, managing a variety of services across West Surrey such as district nursing, Health Visiting, school nursing and prison health care, among others. From 2006 until I retired in March 2015 I worked exclusively in Children's Community Health services across Surrey, which included management responsibility for the Community Paediatricians, children's Audiology, children's community nurses, special school nurses and the children's therapists (occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy).

All this has given me a keen interest in education and a desire to contribute to the development of our local school, particularly in terms of Christian values.

I appreciate I have a great deal to learn but I hope some of my management skills and knowledge of special needs will assist the Governing body.

We have two daughters both in their 30s and our first grandson was born in May 2015.



Parent Governor – Vida Stewart

With an entire career revolving around education in one form or another, I initially qualified as a speech and language therapist and specialised in working with children with moderate learning difficulties in schools in the Chichester area. I subsequently ran an international consultancy and training business with my husband Neil, which took us to western Africa for a year or so where I worked as principal of a new business college. Since we returned to the UK, my roles have included international manager for an awarding body, and I am currently deputy CEO of another awarding body with a strong ethos to support disadvantaged or disenfranchised learners and encourage their return to learning and work. Additionally I am an elected director on the board of the Federation of Awarding Bodies.

I believe very strongly that children should be safe and happy at primary school, which should be a wholly positive experience to start them off on a road of, and give them a love and hunger for, lifelong learning.

Our son Fraser transferred to Harting School in 2015 from another local school, and we were overwhelmed by the school's happy, positive atmosphere and the staffs' supportive approach. I was privileged to be given the opportunity to use my knowledge and skills to support the school and the whole school family initially as a parent governor from 2016, and now in the role of co-opted governor since Fraser has moved on to secondary school.



Staff Governor – Ros Stamper

I have been teaching on and off for 25 years and in that time have taught in Hampshire, Scotland, Belgium and now West Sussex. I have taught throughout the Primary age range but my passion is early years, so I feel very lucky to be the part time reception teacher at Harting. I studied for and gained a MA in early years Education in 2016 and then trained as a level 3 Forest school leader the following year. Both qualifications allowed me to deepen my thinking about how children learn and how to motivate them which I feel is key to success.

I have three children all now at secondary school or college. My youngest spent three years at Harting where he thrived and really fulfilled his potential.

Having had a double role as a teacher and parent at the school, will I hope, help me as a governor to give insight and thought to our decision making.



Parent Governor – Maria Le Mesurier

I am originally from Harting and finally moved back here about 12 years ago. I have 5 children, 3 who have now left Harting, 1 in Yr 3 and 1 who will start school next academic year. When my smallest boy leaves Harting, I have worked out it will be 2028, meaning I will have been part of the School for 22 years!

This sounds like an awfully long time, which it is, but importantly I think it means I have good insight, experience and a deep understanding of the School.

My family are my absolute priority, but I have a design background and work as an interior styling and creative consultant.

I feel we are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful School in the village, and I would now like to give something back by supporting Harting School as much as I can as a Parent Governor.



Parent Governor – Tamsin Cormack

I volunteered to be a parent governor as I am passionate about the importance of excellent primary education. We were warmly welcomed into the Harting community when we moved here last summer and I wanted to support the school in continuing to provide an inspiring and nurturing environment, enabling all children to succeed.

I moved to East Harting from South London, where I worked as a teacher for almost 12 years - most recently as the Deputy Headteacher of a large primary school in Lambeth. I was also a teacher governor for 8 years. I believe my experience and background in education provide me with a broad range of skills and knowledge to support and champion the school.

My son Niall is currently in year 2 at Harting and I have two younger children, Orla and Rory, who will be joining the school in the next couple of years. We are delighted to have such a fantastic school with great teachers and welcoming families, right on our doorstep. I am looking forward to working with the school in any way I can to help them to continue to be the school of choice in this area.



Parent Governor – Iain Gibbons

Ruth and I moved to Treyford 10 years ago, so we are still relative newcomers! As the dad of Findlay and Euan, I am passionate about the amazing work that the school does. I never fail to be impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm by all the staff.

With a professional background of owning a large national company and more recently managing large Government projects on behalf of a major IT company, I hope this will help me add value as a governor.

I'm passionate about lifelong learning having mentored and coached many apprentices at the beginning of their careers and am now really excited to be involved at the start of the learning journey.

With baby Isla now here, I'm looking forward to being part of the school community for many years to come!

