

Governing Board - Pen Portraits

Dawn Bentley (Community Governor)

I have been part of the governing body at Hilton Primary School since 2004. For eight years I was a parent governor until my children left the school. Since then I have been fortunate enough to be able to continue as a governor in a different capacity.

During this time I have actively helped and supported the school with the many challenges faced always considering the best outcome for the children at the front of everything I do. It is important to me that every child realises their full potential in a safe and happy environment.

Until this year when the governing body reorganised I spent my time on what is now the Standards & Teaching Committee (formerly Attainment & Progress). I am also the Nominated Safeguarding Governor.

Nick Campion (Community Governor)

I believe that pupils' time at HPS should not only be about aspiring to excellence in the classroom but also exploring as many avenues of learning as possible. I enjoy working with the senior leadership team to find ways for the school to educate and nurture the whole child - intellectually, socially, emotionally, creatively and physically.

I am rigorous in holding the school to account in every facet of education but also commit to be constructive and supportive at all times.

I am in my eleventh year as a governor. I have served on a number of committees, have been vice-chair and I currently chair the Quality and Standards committee. I am also the link governor for the subject of English. I enjoy coming into school to speak to teachers, pupils and leaders so I can understand more about our school and how Governors can help it to continue improving.

I am a freelance writer and psychotherapist, and like to offer my expertise to the school in any way possible. The academic year 2020-21 is the first year without one of my daughters in HPS since 2009; both of them loved their time at the school and I want to ensure all other pupils have a similarly rewarding experience.

Sujinder Lehal (Parent Governor)

I have been a parent governor at Hilton Primary School since November 2016. I am currently working within the Standards and Teaching Committee of the governing body. I am a mother of 3 children, 2 of which attend Hilton Primary School. I moved into Hilton 5 years ago, and I am originally from Kent. I have worked, and continue to work (Part – Time) for Costco's Optical Department.

I assumed my current post to gain more of an awareness of how the school makes decisions related to improving educational standards, and making positive contributions to the decision making process myself. Although not involved in education in a professional capacity, I have good inter-personal skills and experience of working in partnership with

work colleagues, professionals, and management staff to improving working conditions and raising standards of service provided. I share the school's commitment to improving educational attainment levels and it's aim to achieve 'outstanding' status.

My parent governor role also enables me to make positive contributions to ensuring that pupils continue to thrive and maximise their potential in a fun, stimulating and happy educational environment.

Joe Handy (Staff Governor)

I have been a proud member of staff at Hilton Primary School since 2015 and currently teach in Year 5. For the past 4 years I have also been a year group leader and helped lead an amazing group of colleagues in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. I was keen to be a part of the governing body as it's an important part of the school structure that I wanted to know more about and be more involved with. As well as this, I have been lucky enough to form lots of close relationships with many of my colleagues and think this will help me represent staff views and ideas well at meetings. Every part of my job revolves around delivering the very best opportunities and outcomes for the children in our school and I look forward to working alongside our governing body to ensure we continue to provide these.

Katie Brown (Associate Governor)

I have been a proud member of the team at Hilton Primary School since 2015. I am passionate about providing our children with the best possible education so that each individual reaches their true potential. I am currently based in Year 5 but have spent the majority of my time at HPS teaching in Year 6. I am also a Year Group Leader and I lead English (writing) across the whole school. As part of my new role, Acting Assistant Head, I am excited about being an associate governor as I feel it will provide me with further opportunities to work alongside staff, families and our community to ensure our pupils receive an enriching and inspiring curriculum.

Tricia Edwards (Acting co Headteacher HPS)

I have been lucky enough to be part of Hilton Primary School for over 7 years. During this time, I have been Assistant Head and Year group leader and taught across KS1 and KS2.

In school I have held many responsibilities, including Assessment Lead, Appraisal Lead, SLE and DSL. My current role is as Acting Co Headteacher and as my responsibilities have increased, so has my love of the job!

The glue that binds the school together is the children and I can honestly say that every single day at Hilton has been a joy because of them. They are keen to learn and embrace life and it is amazing to see them grow, learn and move to secondary school, ready to take on the world!

Throughout my time at Hilton, I have been an associate governor and sat on a range of different committees. I have worked with our very dedicated governors to improve our provision for the children of Hilton. I am excited about the next phase for Hilton and look forward to working with our governing body to take the school from strength to strength.

Shelley White (Acting co Headteacher HPS)

I have worked at Hilton Primary School since 2014 in a variety of roles and I am currently the Acting Co-Headteacher!

I worked in a number of schools, with a background in Special Educational Needs, before finding the amazing children at HPS.

I love working at Hilton as its size makes it a very unique primary school. The facilities and opportunities we can offer our children here are incredible. I love the challenge of ensuring that although we are the largest school in Derbyshire we feel like a traditional village school.

Following the departure of Mr Lomas, I was keen to take the helm alongside Mrs Edwards, who is an amazing colleague and friend. Our partnership has ensured stability and continuity for the children and staff at Hilton and we are all very excited about the development of our brand new INSPIRE curriculum.

I have been a governor here for a number of years and working in partnership with our dedicated and effective governing board, I am sure that HPS will continue to go from strength to strength.

Amy Plenderleith (Community Governor)

I have been a governor since 2006 and currently sit on the Standards & Teaching committee. I am also one of the governors responsible for safeguarding.

As a parent of three children, all of whom have attended HPS, I am keen to see the school succeed and continue to provide a high standard of education and care for its pupils.

My role as a community governor enables me to draw on my knowledge and work within local government in Derbyshire. I have been a District Councillor for Hilton since 2007, and have experience of planning issues and local government finance, as well as being an active member of several other governing bodies in the last 10 years, including Derbyshire's Police & Crime Panel, Etwall Sure Start Children's Centre and the Council of Governors at Burton Hospitals FT. These roles and other community connections enable me to bring useful local strategic perspective and knowledge to governor's meetings.

Anna Selby (Parent Governor)

I have been a governor since November 2016. I have lived in Hilton since 2013 and am married with 2 children, both of whom are at HPS. I currently work at the Royal Derby Hospital, having previously spent 11 years working for the University of Nottingham.

I chose to become a governor because I believe I possess useful project management skills acquired through my employment and wanted to use these to support and improve HPS. I have been very impressed with HPS, in particular the standard of teaching and care. My desire is for the school to become outstanding and remain a happy, supportive environment for each pupil.

Julie Somers (Parent Governor)

I have been a parent governor at Hilton Primary School for nearly 8 years. Throughout my time on the governing board I have had the pleasure of working with all year groups.

I have 2 children both have attended Hilton Primary since Nursery, with my youngest just starting in year 6 this year.

Professionally, I am a qualified primary school teacher and worked for 15 years in a South Derbyshire Junior School, taking responsibility for History, English and Relationship and Sex Education. I left the classroom in 2014 and moved to Derby University where I am a Senior Lecturer on the Initial Teacher Education programmes and work closely with schools to provide placements for the trainees and moderate their teaching as they progress towards gaining their Qualified Teaching Status.

Emma Watson (Community Governor)

I was invited to join the governing team at Hilton Primary School in May 2017, after my active involvement in fighting for extra funding for the school. Schools are sadly having to become increasingly business and financially aware to face the challenges from funding constraints and government metrics, whilst remembering these children are people and not just targets.

As a qualified CIMA accountant with a business studies honours degree and 19 years experience at Rolls-Royce in Finance. I believe I can help the school by bringing both business and financial expertise at this difficult time. However, as a parent of one child in the school, I am conscious that despite financial burdens at the school, the primary focus in all decisions should be the welfare of the children. The quality of teaching and support to the individual child should not be forgotten in these difficult times.

Peter Williams (Community Governor)

My involvement in the school started 7 years ago as part of the PTFA for 4 years as vice chair. During the recent battle for funding I got much more actively involved in the financial and emotional battle that ensued. I decided it was an appropriate time to give focus to another area of school life.

I have an honours degree in Information Technology and have worked in IT in various different companies for 18 years. 6 years ago I started a company with two colleagues specifically in the insurance debt recovery sector. Being a company director has given me insights into finance, HR, operations, sales, marketing as well as my familiar home of IT. I believe I can apply this to our school and its governance. My enthusiasm to do a good job is driven by my children who love this school.

Laura Briggs (Parent Governor MSA)

I have two children, one of whom has just started at the Mease. My children's future, and that of the others attending the Mease, is of huge importance to me and I am really excited to be able to support their education as a Governor.

I currently work as a Project Manager for a large Midlands based Social Landlord, and at University I studied Education and spent a great deal of time working in schools and working with children with special educational needs. I hope that this experience will allow me to help drive and support the fantastic standards that have already been established by the Teachers and staff at the Mease.

Terry Irvine (Community Governor MSA)

My eldest child is in Year 1 at The Mease and as a governor I am delighted to be part of such a welcoming, nurturing and supportive school. In my role I hope to support the school to ensure all the children continue to thrive in a happy, safe setting where they can learn and grow.

My background is in commercial and export compliance and I currently lead an export compliance team in the aerospace industry. My role is heavily focused on compliance and governance which I hope stands me in good stead as a member of the governing board.

Julia Hart (Headteacher MSA)

I during my teaching career, have worked in 4 schools – all very different! After 11 years at Hilton Primary as Deputy Head, I finally took the plunge into headship when The Mease Spencer Academy opened in September 2019. It is an absolute privilege to be the Principal at The Mease – having come from the largest school in Derbyshire, I am now at one of the smallest – although not for long as we will grow year on year. To start building a brand new school from scratch is a joy and a challenge and, along with my fabulous team, we all relish every minute. I am extremely grateful that HPS governors on this new chapter for the village of Hilton and to be working in partnership with both HPS and Spencer Academies Trust.