FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS



Gavin Tisshaw - Chair of Governors

I have been a governor at FPSS since 2004 when Tanya White started as Head. I became a governor because I felt I should be more involved in my children's education and because I believe that the School is such a vital part of our community and should give every opportunity to our young people to develop their potential.

My two step children were both students at the school and my youngest son has just started in the 2019/20 academic year. I live in Furze Platt and am Chairman of a Cookham-based firm of Chartered Financial Advisers which I set up in 1992. My hobbies include flying, playing the tuba and being an RYA powerboat instructor.





I was thrilled to be invited to join the Furze Platt School Governing Body at the time when the school was celebrating its 50th anniversary. I was a student at the School during its first year of opening and very much enjoyed my time here. It is great to put something back into the school in my role as Vice Chair of the Governing Body and Chair of the Governance Committee.

I worked in British Airways for 35 years in senior posts in Network and Operational Planning, since retiring I have been involved in part time consultancy roles within the aviation sector.

Hobbies and interests are extensive, sport and travel being top of the list. Being a season ticket holder at Fulham Football Club frequently delivers a mixed set of emotions over each 90 minute play period. As my fellow governors will confirm, I am away overseas for a number of weeks during the year; my wife and I are trying to visit places we have not been to before, such as New Zealand and Brazil. So far this has been achieved without significantly impacting my Governing Body duties and of course the attendance of football matches. I continue to really enjoy working with all members of the Furze Platt family; it is a very important and valuable component of my semi-retired life.

Michael Clayton - Governor



I have been a governor at FPSS since 2016, joining the school prior to my daughter, who is currently a pupil. Since joining I have acted as Pupil Premium Governor and Chair of the Resources Committee.

My career has ranged from an officer in the Merchant Navy, the design of GSM and 3G, project management and now Cyber Security. I also deal with regulatory issues with cyber security and GDPR. I am honoured and pleased to give something back to the school and the local community.

Katie Donnison – Governor



I was first appointed as a Parent Governor in 2008, when my son was in Year 9. I have worked in school publishing and education technology for over 15 years. After my son left FPSS Sixth Form, I remained on the governing body and have held a variety of roles including Chair of the Pupils & Parents Committee, member of the Resources Committee, Primary Transition Link, Pupil Premium Link and Sixth Form Link. I led the recruitment for our new Head in 2018, and have led the recent internal and external Governance reviews.

I currently serve as Chair for both Teaching & Learning and Staffing Committees, am a member of the Governance Committee and our Careers Link Governor.

Jacqui Edwards – Parent Governor



I have been a Parent Governor at Furze Platt Senior School since 2015. I have two children at the school, one in Year 7 and the other in the Sixth Form. My background is in the science and engineering professions and I have also recently trained as a science teacher. I became a governor to support Furze Platt Senior School by helping to bring a parents' perspective to the governors' collective decision making.

I have particular interests in the governance of Teaching and Learning within the school and the governance of support provided by the school for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Laraine Holdsworth - Governor



I graduated from Aston University with a Pharmacy degree and initially pursued a career in NHS Pharmacy. I then moved into the pharmaceutical industry where I have worked in a wide range of roles including market research, marketing and communications.

I have two sons, one currently in Year 10 at FPSS and the other at Birmingham University (previously at FPSS). As a parent I have been very impressed by the school, especially the support and opportunities provided to its students. Hence when a governor vacancy was advertised I was keen to get more involved in the school through this role providing support, challenge and advice. I am now in my second term and have been a governor for 7 years.

In my spare time I enjoy walking, yoga, pilates, reading and spending family time on our river boat.



Sue Le Page – Governor

I started as a Parent Governor in 1996 and have enjoyed my association and work with FPSS so much that I am still on the Board. I am currently working as Pupil Premium Governor and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Verifier. I am a member of the Teaching & Learning and the Pupils & Parents Committee.

I enjoy a full time 'retirement' with Pilates and going to the gym to keep fit for my wide range of interests and young grandchildren. I am treasurer for the local Methodist Church, help run a Come & Play session and a Rainbow Guide unit as well as being a trustee of two small charities serving the local community and a member of the Cookham Twinning committee organising visits to St Benoit near Poitiers.

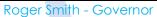




I am Head of Science at FPSS and a Staff Governor. I have been working here for 7 years and have also had both my daughters go through the school. I mainly teach Biology and Chemistry and have been teaching for 12 years, prior to which I worked in genetics research.

I became a governor 3 years ago because I thought it would be good for my own professional development and it has been really interesting seeing the school from a different perspective - particularly at such a pivotal time in terms of the current expansion and site improvement.

Interests away from school include travel, photography, vegan cooking and the occasional pub quiz at the Crauford Arms!





I am a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and part own an international dispute resolution practice based in central London. I have lived in the Royal Borough for 40 years; initially in Cookham, when my parents moved here in 1979, and subsequently I moved to Maidenhead in 1988 and still live in the town.

My passion for Furze Platt Senior School emanates from the fact that I was a pupil at the school many years ago. I left the Upper Sixth Form in 1983 and during my final year was Head Boy at the school. I was elected as Governor in 2017 after being asked to consider the role by a friend and fellow governor who was also in my year at the school 'back in the day'! It's great to be involved with the school again.

Hugh Steed - Governor



I have two children at FPSS, currently in years 10 and 8, and live close by so have a strong parental and community interest in the school. I joined as a governor in September 2018 and currently chair the Resources Committee.

I work in technology so wanted to bring that business expertise to the governing board and help grow the school's already strong focus on STEM.

I'm an enthusiastic quizzer and help run the twice yearly PTFA quiz night to raise much needed funds.

Jo Lackovic – Staff Governor



I have been a member of staff at FPSS in the Science department for 23 very happy years, and have seen many positive changes during this time. I have been married to Steve for 43 years, and have two boys of 30 and 32. Now they have left home I have more free time, hence my return to the governing role after a 5 year gap.

This is my fourth term as support staff governor and my position as Lead technician has enabled me to see the running of the school from a good prospective. I am keen to be involved in providing strong and effective governance at FPSS, and look forward to the many challenges ahead as the school moves into a period of growth over the coming years.

Diane Flood - Governor (Co-opted)



I am a Chartered Librarian with many years' experience of working with young people in school, public and university libraries. I was originally appointed as a staff governor when I worked in the school library at Furze Platt and am now a co-opted governor. I am currently working as a librarian at Claire's Court school.

My eldest daughter attended Furze Platt and is now in her second year at university. My son is also at the school and has just started in year 12.



Shane Woodhatch - Governor (Co-opted)



Vetty Shervell - Parent Governor

I am married with a child at Furze Platt Senior School. I'm a qualified Trauma Operating Theatre Nurse, however due an injury I went back to University and did a Business degree specialising in Human Resources and Law. I have worked in the private sector in various Operational, project management, training and managing large high performing teams. I became a governor to help support my local school with any of the skills and abilities I have learnt through my time working in those roles.

My interests are mostly focused on my sons' sports. I have a retired Greyhound and I love baking cupcakes.

Roberto Da Silva - Parent Governor



I work for the biggest shipping company in the world, currently serving as the Head of Cyber Security Regulatory Compliance. My department aims to capture intelligence on cyber security obligations (e.g. regulations, laws, standards, guidance, contractual clauses) and analyses these to report the current compliance levels along with recommendations to address the impact of any nonconformity.

Becoming a governor allows me to give back to the community, everything that this great and fantastic country is giving to my family. I have a bachelor's degree in History, so I love everything related to that field. Other preferences are reading, watching movies and football (Brazilian and English). Most importantly, I do love spending time with the family, my lovely wife, Barbara and my two daughters, Malu (12) and Duda (6).

Emily Tomalin - Parent Governor



I studied 'Engineering Design and Appropriate Technology at Warwick University, which included renewable energy, third world development and ecology alongside conventional engineering. Afterwards I worked for a while in a small hydro power company in London, then settled in mid-Wales to work for The Centre for Alternative Technology. Wind Power started to boom in Wales and I helped establish EcoGen Ltd. developing windfarms in Wales, Cornwall and Scotland.

In 1996 I left the wind industry and moved to Maidenhead where I raised my son Raphael (who came to Furze Platt) and my daughter Amy. I spent a couple of years as a Teaching Assistant at Desborough Secondary School and worked again as a renewable energy consultant for TVEnergy, who advised RBWM, Housing Solutions and local schools on energy efficiency. I helped to establish MaidEnergy as a local renewable energy company, raising community shares to install Solar PV on schools and community centres to stabilise energy prices and reduce carbon emissions. I have also been a volunteer Coordinator for many years for the Amaravati Buddhist Family Camps, which provide an opportunity for families to stay at a Retreat Centre and learn about Buddhism and meditation. Now I am retired.

I am strongly in favour of state comprehensive education and its potential to provide a well-rounded education and also to model sustainable and compassionate living.





I am a mum to two boys, both at FPSS. I am a primary school teacher and have been teaching for nearly 18 years. I am passionate about education and the development of the whole child which is why I wanted to join the governing body.

In my own time, I enjoying running, Pilates and taking on a variety of physical and mental challenges including obstacle races. I'm very sociable and love to spend time with family and friends and meeting new people. I also support various different charities including Daisy's Dream and Mencap.



Jenny Knight - Clerk to the Governing Body

I became Clerk at FPSS in January 2019 and have very much enjoyed the experience of getting to know the School and its Governing Body. My role is to manage all the paperwork for Governors' meetings, including Committees and the Full Governing Body as well as additional panels and working groups. In addition, I organise governor training and school visits, policy approvals, inductions for new governors and anything else that involves the governors.

I am Mum to two primary school children (aged 4 and 6) and spend much of my 'spare' time organising (and singing with) Cantorum Choir in Cookham, for whom I am Chair. I love classical music, walking, swimming and baking – as well as escaping to Cornwall, where my parents live.