

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS



Hugh Steed - Chair of Governors

I have a daughter at Furze Platt, and live close by so have a strong parental and community interest in the school. I joined as a Governor in September 2018 and took on the role of Chair of Governors at the beginning of this academic year.

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.



Katie Donnison - Vice Chair of Governors

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 internal and external Governance reviews.

I am currently Vice Chair of Governors, Link Governor for Careers and Pupil Premium and sit on all committees.



Nabeela Akhtar - Governor



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.



Jacqui Edwards – Parent Governor

I have been a Parent Governor at Furze Platt Senior School since 2015 and I now have one child at the school. My background is in the science and engineering professions and I have also trained as a science teacher. I became a Governor to support Furze Platt Senior School by helping to bring a parent’s perspective to the Governors’ collective decision making.

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



Diane Flood - Governor

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 Newlands School.

My son and daughter both attended Furze Platt. My son was Head Boy in his final year.



Josie Fray – Parent Governor

I am an ex-Furze Platt student with a daughter who is in the sixth form at the school. As a social worker for deaf people I have worked with children and adults, supporting them to make positive changes and challenge social injustice. As a school governor I will be involved in the Pupils & Parents Committee where my skills may be best used.

Outside of work I enjoy in the summer, learning the art of wicket keeping and in the winter, going to the cinema.



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 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 third term and have been a governor for ten years.

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



Noel Wood – Parent Governor

am an ex-pupil of Furze Platt with three children. My two girls have been through FPSS and my son has just started in Year 7. After leaving FPSS I completed a Toolmaking apprenticeship and worked in manufacturing engineering. I started teaching in 2013 and I am currently curriculum leader for Engineering and IT at a Sixth Form college.

I'm looking forward to giving back to the school that has shaped mine and my children's lives. I play the drums in a local band and have taught drums privately from my home studio.



Shane Woodhatch – Governor

I joined the Furze Platt Senior School Governing Body in 2019. As a parent with children at FPSS, I have been impressed with both Furze Platt Senior and Junior School and with my financial background would like to bring my expertise to the table, ensuring that FPSS remains financially stable in what can be considered interesting times. I currently work at HCUC as Group Finance Director and I have been involved in the education sector for 20 years.

My hobbies/sports are primarily golf and cycling. I do enjoy following rugby including the occasional banter between the two hemispheres, since I grew up in South Africa.



Jenny Knight – Governance Manager

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 and spend some of my spare time singing with Cantorum Choir in Cookham. I love classical music, walking, swimming and baking – as well as escaping to Cornwall or Scotland whenever I can.