FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS



Gavin Tisshaw - Chair of Governors

I have been a governor at FPSS since 2004. 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 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.



Hugh Steed – Vice Chair of Governors

I have two children at FPSS, currently in Years 12 and 10, 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.



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.





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 and I have two children at the school. 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 parent's 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 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 9 years.

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



Roger Smith - Governor

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.



Lucy Naylor - Staff Governor

I am Head of Marlow House and Head of Business and Economics, BTEC and Apprenticeships and now a Staff Governor! I have been working at FPSS for nearly 3 years and have loved every minute of it. I mainly teach sixth form A-level Business, A-level Economics and BTEC Business and have been teaching for 22 years. Prior to joining Furze Platt I taught in Henley on Thames, Stoke on Trent, Shropshire and Cheshire. I have been a governor at one of previous schools so was delighted when the post became vacant. I am looking forward to seeing our school from a different perspective – particularly at such a challenging time for our country.

Interests away from school include walking my three dogs, watching Liverpool Football Club and spending time with my extended family.



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 Claire's Court school.

My eldest daughter attended Furze Platt and is now in her third year at university. My son is also at the school in the Sixth Form.



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.



Sharan Webb – Staff Governor

I work in the Exams Department at Furze Platt Senior School. Prior to this I have worked for charities and within the private sector in various HR / Diversity/ Coaching roles.

My three children attend the school and I have always been impressed by the level of commitment of the staff to its pupils, so I was more than happy to put my name forward as a Staff Governor.

I am passionate about wellbeing, especially understanding and raising self- esteem in children.



Janet Fitzgibbon – Parent Governor

I am a mum to two boys, both at FPSS. I am a primary school teacher and Deputy Head of two schools within a large academy trust and have been teaching for over 20 years. I am passionate about education and the development of the whole child which is why I wanted to join the governing body. I am especially interested in SEND provision within mainstream schools.

In my own time, I enjoy running, bootcamp and taking on a variety of physical and mental challenges including obstacle course 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.



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.



Emily Tomalin - Parent Governor

I am Mum of Amy who is in Year 12. My son was at FPSS and now lives in Brighton. I have lived in Cookham for 25 years, but I grew up in London and lived in wild west Wales for many years. I am retired from a career in Renewable Energy. I used to work on wind farms in Wales and solar energy in Maidenhead. I am a member of the local Green Party and I am fascinated and concerned about how our society will adapt to the challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity. Schools, like all our institutions, need to explore this challenge, but I think it can bring many positive opportunities.

I enjoy walking my dogs, growing and cooking organic veg, and practising meditation.



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.