Meet our Governors at Aycliffe Drive Primary School

Steve Preston

I joined the board of governors in 2020 when my eldest son joined Aycliffe Drive School. Having been educated locally and still living in the area I'm incredibly keen to be involved in my children's education. I have a background in property and business development, as a Parent and Co-opted governor I'm keen to share ideas to help build upon the excellent work and results created by the staff and pupils alike. I now have two children attending the school and couldn't be happier with their progress.

Rosamund Russell

I am a Local Government Officer with 30 years of experience and currently my role is a Research Officer in the Corporate Research Unit of a London local authority. Outside of work I am a chorister at St Mary's Church (Old Town) and am interested and do many craft activities such as knitting, sewing and jewellery making. I have been a Governor at Aycliffe Drive since 1999 (17 years) and am currently chair of the Staffing and Admin committee and a member of all other committees (and responsible areas for SEND and curriculum areas, PHSE and Science). I became a school governor to give back to the community I live in and also because I am interested in children's education having married into a family of teachers. I have an interest in SEND as I have 2 sons, both have Dyslexia which runs in the family, and one who has an Autistic Spectrum Disorder as well as Auditory Processing Disorder.

Gemma Long

I became a Governor in September 2022 and form part of the curriculum and strategy Committees. I have worked at Aycliffe Drive since my first year of teaching, initially in our Reception class and then became the foundation Key Stage leader. I am currently teaching in Chestnut our year 2 class and responsible for KS1 and English within the school. As a teacher and a parent, I believe it is important that all children can access a varied curriculum and develop a wider knowledge of the world around them.

Kelly Marie King

I decided to become a parent governor whilst I was on maternity leave with my youngest child having connection with the school because of childminding then becoming a parent then finally the chair of the PTA , I have 24 years experiences with the foundation stage therefore I wanted to see how school runs behind the scenes and become more involved .

Joanne Cross

I have recently joined the Governing Body at Aycliffe Drive School after teaching here for seven years. Both of my children have attended the school and were very happy here, as am I! I am keen to become more involved in school life, as a teacher, a parent and now as a governor. I have high expectations of myself as a teacher, as well as for the school. It is my wish to ensure that every child is treated as an individual and supported to reach their full potential. I believe that my enthusiasm and desire to make a difference makes me an ideal staff governor. I look forward to helping the school and the children develop in the future.

Alan Miles

I became a governor in September 2023 as a co-opted governor. I currently have two of my children attending Aycliffe Drive Primary School. I have a background in Finance for many years which I felt would enable me to support in both finance & premises committee and staffing & admin committee. I am keen to help and support all the staff at the school deliver and improving on the quality education programme already in place.

Isabelle Goss

My grandchildren are attending Aycliffe Drive Primary School, so I decide to become a governor help support the children and school. I have a lot of experience working in schools from a variety of roles so I have a good understanding of education. I am keen to support the school and help the school community. I am often seen in the school and I love hearing the children read.

Sam Whitehead

I was elected as a parent governor in 2024. I currently have two children at Aycliffe Drive and am passionate about ensuring the school is delivering the best education and opportunities for children in the local community. My professional background is in recruitment within the NHS where I've developed a good understanding of staffing and finance in a public sector environment, and I feel I can utilise this experience to support the school.

Bethan Mentore

My name is Bethan Mentore and I have been a governor at Aycliffe Drive since January 2025. I am delighted to introduce myself to parents and carers. I have over 20 years of teaching experience, with a particular specialism in Year 6 and mathematics. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of a supportive, inclusive school environment where every child feels valued and has the opportunity to thrive. In 2025, I took on the role of Link Governor for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), an area of school life that I am particularly passionate about. I hope to use my experience to make a positive contribution to the school community.

Lionel Kaye

I have recently joined the board of governors after many years working at executive level at global companies within their technology teams. I have four grown up children and now find myself in a position to utilise some of my acquired skills for the benefit of the school. I am keen to help and support all the staff at the school and strive for continuous improvement.