

Hathern Church of England Primary School

Governing Body 2017

At Hathern Church of England Primary School, we believe in 'Learning and Caring Together'

All schools have governing bodies and our purpose is to help the school to provide the best possible education for every pupil and help them reach the highest standards of achievement.



School governors come in a variety of types. At Hathern we have four governors who are parents or carers, and are elected by all parents and carers. We have three co-opted governors who represent the wider school community, who are elected by the other governors. Two foundation governors represent our local church, and are selected by the PCC as we are a voluntary controlled school. We also have one governor appointed by the local authority and one staff governor elected by all members of staff. The Head Teacher also serves on the governing body.



Our **Chair of Governors** is **Bill Leivers – Foundation Governor**

I have been a Hathern resident for over 30 years and my two grown up children both attended Hathern School. Now my grandchildren attend, and I am delighted that I am able to contribute to the operation and development of this wonderful school! Now retired, I have had a long education, including experience as a secondary school teacher, Further

Education lecturer, senior lecturer and manager and Local Authority Education Support Co-ordinator. Being a governor at Hathern School has opened my eyes to Primary Education and the importance of it in developing the foundations for happy and successful young people – education in its purest sense! I am loving my role as Chair of Governors, working with senior leaders and other governors, and further developing links with SS Peter and Paul's Church. The Christian ethos of Hathern School is a key element in defining the identity and character of the school for the benefit of all its members.

Rev. Laretta Wilson – Foundation Governor

I am the vicar of the St Peter & St Paul's Church in the village and a Foundation governor. I joined the governing body in 2016 and have played an active role in the running of the school. I regularly perform Acts of Collective Worship at school and welcome the children to church for whole school celebrations.



What makes a Governor?

Governors are any age – young and old - with qualifications and experience from many walks of life including commercial and business activities, teaching and education and the church, with a wide variety of outside interests. Our broad experience makes us a strong and balanced governing body and enables us to carry out our strategic role.

Ms Annette Harper – Local Authority Governor

I have lived in Hathern for 25 years, in that time I have been a parent, treasurer of PTA, member of staff and governor at the school. I have been a governor for over 17 years and am proud of what the school has achieved in that time. At the moment I serve on the Finance, personnel and premises committee. I love living in Hathern and want the best for it, I feel the school is a big part of the community, I was also a Parish Councillor. I am now also a Hathern Library Trustee and am pleased we have kept the library open for the community and have forged great links with the school. My hobbies are travelling, walking, gardening, reading and music and I have recently added sewing to the list. I am now a grandparent and look forward to my granddaughter becoming a pupil of Hathern School.



Mr Richard Farmer – Parent Governor

I only recently joined the governing body (November 2017) as a parent governor and am delighted to be able to offer support in helping the school achieve its future aims. I have a child in Key Stage 2 who has developed incredibly in because of the quality of teaching and the fantastic experiences offered. My intention is to aid the school in ensuring that every child continues to enjoy such a wide curriculum of opportunity in order that they thrive and shine - as my son has experienced.

Neil Biggs – Parent Governor

I have been a parent governor since 2016 and have two girls in the school. I work with other governors on the School Improvement and Safeguarding committee and have an interest in the personal development, behaviour and wellbeing of our children. I am originally from upt'north (Sheffield) but have lived happily in the village for several years. I met with Ofsted during the school inspection in January 2017, and enjoyed being part of the monitoring process being performed effectively by governors.



The role of Governors

So what precisely do we do? We meet as a full governing body at least once a term, however much of the business is delegated to sub-committees. We have Finance, Personnel and Premises, School Improvement and Safeguarding and Foundation sub-committees. We

develop the strategic framework within which the school operates and determine the character, aims, ethos and values of the school. We govern by developing policies against which the school operates.



Graham Spencer – Parent Governor

I joined the governing body in 2013 and currently serve as Vice Chair. I have lived in the village all of my life and am proud to say that I attended the village school. I am now a parent of a Key Stage 2 child and am interested in supporting the school in whatever way I can. I am the governor with responsibility for Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities (SEND) and regularly meet with the school SENDCo.

Mr Tim Farthing – Co-opted Governor

I only recently joined the Governing Body of Hathern School, although I have experience of the school, a few years back, as a parent.



Mr Alistair McGregor – Parent Governor

I am a new parent governor this year and have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the running of the school. As a parent of a child in the early stages of their education, I wanted to understand the support in place for all students starting school at Hathern. I am a member of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee and I am very much looking forward to working with the Governing Body and

senior leaders to further develop the educational opportunities for all pupils at Hathern. I have personally worked in education for the past 14 years and currently work in a special educational needs school near Lichfield. Away from work I like to spend time with my family and play a range of sports.

Whole school effectiveness

A school functions best when the governing body and the Head Teacher work together as a team in pursuit of common values. This certainly doesn't mean that the governors are there just to rubber stamp decisions that are made by the Head Teacher. The governors' relationship can best be described as a "critical friend".

Governors monitor and evaluate the work of the school, offering constructive advice, a sounding board for ideas and a second opinion on proposals. We are not there to interfere in the day to day running of the school, or to comment on the quality or methods employed by the teaching staff – those are the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

The fabric of the buildings and the school finances take up a lot of our time. Most of the funding provided by the government comes directly to the school which means we have

tough decisions to make about the priorities for spending to achieve the best we can for Hathern pupils. There is never enough!

Mr Stuart Bailey (Deputy Headteacher) – Staff Governor

I joined the school as Deputy Headteacher and Class 5 teacher in January 2017 and became a staff governor as soon as the opportunity arose as I want to be involved in all aspects of school leadership, including working with governor colleagues. I have previously been a governor in a previous school and bring further experience to the group.



Mrs Wendy Cripps (Learning support) – Co-opted Governor



I have worked at Hathern, as part of the Learning Support Team, for many years. I am a member of the School Improvement and Safeguarding Committee. I really enjoy working at the school and so being a Governor provides me with the opportunity to be involved in how the school is run.

Mr Stephen Dunn (Headteacher)

As headteacher I automatically serve on the Finance, Personnel and Premises, School Improvement and Safeguarding and Foundation Committees. I joined the school in 2012 and enjoy working alongside Governor colleagues in setting the strategic direction of the school.



Ms Cath Watson – Clerk to the Governing Body



I have worked in the Office at Hathern CE for 16 years - As the school and community centre secretary now the Office Manager/Assistant Bursar - in addition I have been the Clerk to governors for three years. My role is to advise the governing body as they carry out their duties, attend the full governing body and committee meetings, assist with the organisation of committees, maintain the register of governors, assist with recruitment and induction of new governors, and keep up to date with the changes to guidance from the government.

Governors' work can be challenging and demanding at times but is also very rewarding. It's never boring! If you would like to know more, perhaps with a view to becoming a governor yourself, please don't hesitate to approach any of the governors or the school directly.

We are always on the lookout for our next generation of governors, so if you, or someone you know in the village or locality would be interested, ask them to contact the school.