

# Governing Body

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.



## **Chair of Governors: Tim Farthing - Co-opted Governor**

*I took on the role of Chair of Governors in January 2021 following on from Bill Leivers [former Chair] who left Hathern and moved to Dorset. Prior to becoming Chair, I had been a Co-opted Governor for 3 years.*

*I am now semi-retired and work part-time as a mentor for students with disabilities at Loughborough University and some voluntary work at John Storer House as well as recently taking on puppy raising for the Guide Dogs for the Blind. I have really enjoyed my time as a Governor and Chair at*

*Hathern and feel very fortunate to be involved in a school where pupil happiness and wellbeing are such high priorities. I never fail to be impressed by the effort, commitment and exceptional skill levels of the staff at all levels who work so hard to provide a fulfilling education for all of our children. I look forward to continuing my role in the next few years to help ensure that the high standards set at Hathern School are sustained into the future.*

## **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.



### **Annette Harper – Local Authority Governor**

*I have lived in Hathern since 1993, in that time at school, I have been a Parent, Grandparent, Treasurer of PTA, a Member of Staff and School Governor since 1999. I am proud of what the school has achieved during that time, going from under 100 children doubling in size to nearly 200, while improving standards continually.*

*At the moment I am Chair of Finance, Personnel and Premises committee.*

*I love the Hathern Community, and the school is a big part of it. I have also been a Parish Councillor and am now a Trustee of the Community Library, where we have forged good links with the school. My time being a governor at school has been a pleasure.*

### **Sophie Candlin – Parent Governor**

*I am lucky enough to live in the village of Hathern with my partner and our son. We moved here in 2016, and my son joined Hathern primary in 2018. It was always my hope that my son would attend a small primary school like Hathern, based on such fond memories of my own as a child. I have been extremely impressed with the school so far and am keen to offer my contribution to the governing body.*



### **Nannette Kirkman-Graham – Parent Governor**

*I am a parent governor and was elected in May 2021. I have lived in Hathern since 2010 and all three of my children attend, or have attended, the school. I have a background in Early Years teaching and have also helped to run after school and holiday club provision with Mr Hanford, so hopefully I am a familiar face to some of our Hathern families. One of the things that drew me to choosing Hathern Primary for my own children was the ethos and values Mr Dunn and the team promote. The school is committed to providing a nurturing environment, with the well-being of the pupils at its core. This in turn creates a space where children feel confident and valued and allows academic learning to flourish. As a school governor I am looking forward to supporting staff, and working with my fellow governors to ensure Hathern Primary continues to embed these principles successfully alongside the school curriculum.*

## 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.*

**Cara Tatterton – Foundation Governor**

*I have been a Hathern resident for over 20 years and my daughter attended Hathern School. I recently joined the governing body as a Foundation Governor and I also work alongside other governors on the School Improvement and Safeguarding Committee. I was a member of the church Praise Group for around 15 years, can often be found helping out at church events, or ringing the church bells. I love the sense of community in Hathern village and feel the school and the church have an important role within the community.*



**Dr Claire Elliott – Parent Governor**

*I have lived in Hathern for the last 8 years and two of my children attend Hathern Primary School, with my third son due to attend in the next couple of years. I took on the role of School Governor to support students at the school and feel that both previous experience (of being a governor in another school) and being a parent of children at the school, shows my commitment to the role. I fully embrace the need for training and development within the role to improve my own skills to discharge the duties of the role and fully support the seven principles of Public Life that underpin the expectations of all Governors.*



**Anna Kalawsky – Co-opted Governor**

*I was co-opted by the Governing Body in February 2020. I am employed by the school as a TA (Teaching Assistant) and HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) and work across most yeargroups. I am fully committed to enhancing educational provision for all – including adults – as I believe in lifelong learning. At the moment, I am studying to complete my teaching degree.*



**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.

**Stuart Bailey (Deputy Headteacher) – Staff Governor**

*I joined the school as Deputy Headteacher in January 2017 and became a staff governor as soon as the opportunity arose as I wanted to be involved in all aspects of school leadership, including working with governor colleagues. I have been a governor in a previous school and look to bring further experience to the group. I currently have the pleasure of teaching Year 6 although have also taught in Year 4 at Hathern.*



**Penny De Kock – Co-opted Governor**



*I became a Governor at the school in September 2018 after being elected by Governor colleagues. My youngest daughter attended the school and has now settled into her secondary school. I hope to bring my business skills to the body and will help in any way I can.*

**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. This year I celebrate 25 years working in primary education including 10 years as headteacher of our fantastic school here in Hathern.*



**Cath Watson – Clerk to the Governing Body**

*I have worked in the Office at Hathern CE for 20 years - As the school secretary and now as the Office Manager/Assistant Bursar. My role as Clerk 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.