

St John's CofE Primary School Governor Biographies – February 2024

Claire Lowe (Chair and Foundation Governor)



I became a Foundation Governor in April 2013, when my daughter Katie was in Year R at St John's. Katie is now at Wellsway School and my younger daughter Isabelle started at St John's in September 2017. I became Chair of Governors in January 2019. I am passionate about ensuring that all children who attend St John's reach their full potential and I find my role as a governor very rewarding. I have a DPhil in Chemistry from the University of York and prior to having children I worked in Policy and Research for the British Dental Association. I took a career break to look after my children, and during that time I ran St John's Church Toddler Group and St John's Church Kidzone (Sunday mornings). I was also a parent rep for Queens Road Pre-school. I have worked at the RUH in Bath in Clinical Trials and for Health Education England commissioning

education for healthcare scientists. I currently work at the RUH as a project manager for Healthcare Science and I also coordinate the current children's activities at St John's Church.

Louisa Aldridge (Vice Chair and Parent Governor)



I took up the role of parent governor in October 2017, my son having started St. John's in 2016. My daughter then started in 2019. Following my Physics degree and PGCE at Bristol University I have worked in education for nearly 20 years, initially as a secondary school science teacher and then in senior leadership roles across a multi academy trust. Having been an assistant head teacher in one academy I now work across the multi academy trust to improve science for all students. I feel that I can use the experiences that I have had in local schools to benefit our children at St John's and I look forward to taking an active role in the life of the school. I am passionate about excellent education for everyone and would like to support St John's to continue being a fantastic school for

students, parents and the local community.

Duncan Tyler (Parent Governor)



I was delighted to be elected as a Parent Governor in 2018. I have two children at the school and while they don't like to tell me much about their time at school, I know they are very happy and receiving a great all-round education both academically and through learning life skills. I have worked in the financial service industry for over 25 years covering a broad range of specialisms including Strategy, Marketing, Finance, Digital and Property Management. In my spare time I have too many hobbies to get time for and have to spend much of it playing computer games with the children! I am the Governor lead on Pupil Premium, which focuses on getting the most out of our funding for children who may need extra support. I am also the lead on Sport & Fitness which is not just about exercise but helping children make healthy choices. Both areas I

feel strongly about and am really pleased with the focus the school gives to them. We have a great school, with fabulous staff, who are focused on getting the best out of every child and I am proud to be playing a part in it.



Jon Medlin (Co-opted/Community Governor)



I became a co-opted governor in April 2018, and have two daughters at St John's. I was brought up in Keynsham, and attended St John's. We moved back a few years ago having lived and worked in a number of places. Whilst away, I studied in Cardiff and London and qualified as a chartered town planner. I mainly work with planning and delivering affordable housing policy and development of growing communities. I also work with individuals, charities and neighbourhood groups to provide free or low cost access to environmental or planning advice. I'm a volunteer with the Environmental Law Foundation having previously been trustee of the charity Planning Aid. I am very interested in the role of schools in the wider community, and supporting St John's future strategic direction to enable a well-rounded education for

all the pupils.

Jennifer O'Reilly (Parent Governor)



My daughter started Year R at St John's in September 2020 and I became a parent governor in July 2021. Following my English literature degree at University of Warwick, I initially worked in marketing for a few years before completing my primary PGCE in 2007. Since then I worked for three years teaching in Blackburn with Darwen, and then moved to Bristol in 2010 where I have been teaching ever since. As my daughter is just beginning her school career, I was keen to play an active role in the life of the school and to help St John's provide an exciting, engaging education for all of its pupils

Tasha Mitella (Community Governor)



I took up the role of community governor in January 2024. I've lived in Keynsham for 8.5 years and have a daughter in year 8 who attended St. John's, and another daughter in year 3 at the school. Over the years through my volunteer work, my previous role in B&NES Council, and my general social nature, I have developed strong personal and professional relationships in the local community. I previously worked for the Youth Justice Service and Violence Reduction Unit before moving to a new role in HR with Futura Partnership. I care deeply about the challenges facing children and young people and am passionate about the school and how it contributes and effects the wider community. I am keen to support St.John's to continue to deliver the best education possible to all pupils.

Sandra Yeoman (Staff Governor)



I took up the role as staff governor at St Johns in February 2018. I am originally from the Northeast of England I moved to Bristol 26 years ago. I am married and a mum of 4 boys and I have just recently become a nan for the first time. I have worked at St Johns for 13 years, starting my career here as a SMSA, then taking on a teaching assistant role. 3 years ago, I was given the opportunity to take on the role of Pastoral and Learning Support Mentor and Deputy Safeguarding Lead across the School. This role gives me the opportunity to work with lots of children and support the children and their families, something that I find very rewarding.



Hollie Lewis (Staff Governor)



I took up the role of staff governor in September 2022 after becoming the Year 6 Class Teacher and Curriculum Lead at St John's. Originally from South, West Wales, I moved to Bristol to undertake my undergraduate degree in Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status and have now settled in Bristol since the beginning of my teaching career. I have taught in Key Stage Two, spent time as the geography specialist for the trust, and have led many areas of the primary curriculum. I am grateful to be a part of the St John's community where it is a collaborative effort to enable all children to reach their full potential, working closely with families to achieve this. In my current roles, I feel I can use my experiences to date to support and encourage our

children at St John's to live out our school values and to strive to reach their best and prepare them for their futures.

Julia Bamfield (Headteacher and Ex-officio Governor)



I took up the role as Ex-officio governor when I became the Headteacher in September 2023. My core belief is that every child can succeed. I believe that our role is to prepare children and equip them for lifelong learning; enabling them to persevere, believe, learn and achieve. I am an advocate for inclusive education and have a wealth of experience working with a wide range of special educational need. I take pride in the learning environment and aim for all children to develop a thirst for knowledge, high levels of engagement and a commitment to learning. I value and understand the importance of the whole school community. Those involved in a child's education must have shared aims, objectives and values- a successful school is one in which teachers, parents and governors work together to provide the best possible learning environment

for children. When the whole school community works together, the ongoing impact and consequential results for.

