

Cowes Primary School – Role of Governors



What do School Governors do?

The role of the governing body has the overall responsibility for the running of the school. This means focusing on the core functions of providing strategic leadership, ensuring the school meets legal requirements (e.g. with regard to the National Curriculum), holding the Head Teacher to account and making sure the school's money is well spent. This is a demanding task for which all governors need to have, or develop, relevant skills and the governor's work closely with, and are advised by, the Head Teacher and school staff. The governors are always pleased to hear the views of parents and if you wish to contact a member of the governing body please telephone the school on 293261 who will be happy to put you in touch.

Governing Body Structure

The governing body at Cowes Primary School is comprised of the full governing body and one sub committee – Pay & Finance. The governing body is supported by the Clerk to the Governing Body.

Membership of the governing body consists of governors with the appropriate skills and experience to carry out the statutory roles and responsibilities and to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The governing body regularly reviews their effectiveness, including the extent to which their structure is fit for purpose and a skills audit has been used to identify the skills, knowledge and experience of current governors. Each governor's term of office is four years and the Chair and is elected annually by the governing body. The governing body consists of:

- **The Head Teacher** – a member of the governing body by virtue of their office.
- **2 Parent Governors** – elected by other parents at the school. Any parent or carer of a registered pupil at the school is eligible to stand for election.
- **1 Staff Governor** – elected by the school staff. They cease to hold office when they cease to work at the school.
- **1 Local Authority Governor** – nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing body.
- **7 Co-opted Governors** - appointed by the governing body because of the specific expertise they can bring to the governance and success of the school.

Applying to be a Governor

We currently have 2 vacancies for co-opted governors – If you are interested in applying to become a school governor please contact the school office for an application pack or email the Clerk to the Governors – clerk@cowespri.iow.sch.uk

The Governing Body (9th January 2018)

Type	Name	Term of Office (From)	Term of Office (To)	Committee	Responsibilities/ Link Subject
Head Teacher	Stephanie Praetig	01/09/2009			
Chair of Governors & Co-opted	Malcolm Carter	22/09/2016	21/09/2020	Pay & Finance	Chair of FGB, Overseeing Foundation subjects, Early Years
Co-opted	Alison Radcliffe	01/02/2017	31/01/2021	Pay & Finance	Vice Chair of FGB Quality of Teaching, Attendance
Co-opted	Liz Jackson	12/07/2016	11/07/2020	Pay & Finance	Literacy
Co-opted	Rod Ainge	24/11/2016	23/11/2020		
Co-opted	Amy Duncan	14/09/2017	13/09/2021		More Able, Disadvantaged, SEN & PHSE/PDE
Local Authority	Hilary Richardson	24/11/2016	23/11/2020	Pay & Finance	Maths & Science
Staff	Rachael Groves	21/10/2016	20/10/2020		
Parent	Andy Brandham	02/02/2015	01/02/2019		Health & Safety, Art, DT & Safeguarding
Parent	Emma Lincoln	14/12/2017	13/12/2021		
Associate	Nicky Coates	04/09/2017			Deputy Head
Associate	Abigail Sollars	15/07/2018			
Clerk	Kim Comer	01/11/2016			

Introduction to the Governing Body



Stephanie Praetig – Head Teacher

As Head Teacher, my role on the Governing Body is to report to the Governors on all areas of the school, from pupil progress and attainment to Health & Safety and Finance. I respond to any questions the Governors have and write regular reports and attend meetings to keep the Governing Body up to date.



Malcolm Carter – Chair & Co-opted Governor

I have been a Governor at Cowes Primary School for a number of years and I still thoroughly enjoy the challenge that this role brings. I became a Parent Governor when both my children were at Cowes Primary school, as I wanted to become more involved with their education. Now that they are now at university and college, I have moved from being a parent to a co-opted Governor and have recently taken over the role as Chair of the Governing body. I am taking a special interest in the foundation subjects to help ensure that they remain high on the school's agenda. I work for Red Funnel since moving to the Island nearly 12 years ago, And currently am based at their West Cowes ticket office.



Alison Radcliffe - Vice Chair & Co-opted Governor

I was appointed onto the Board of Governors two years ago as a Co-opted Governor. My specific skills are in finance and I am also responsible for assessing the training requirements of the governing body. In addition to these roles I can also offer impartial advice drawing on my experience from working in a wide range of businesses to help develop the school and I am enjoying the challenges so far. During the day I am a Finance Director for the group that owns and runs the Isle of Wight Pearl. In addition to the Isle of Wight Pearl we also have our own outlets in Jersey, Cornwall, Tenerife and wholesale division, which sells to retail jewellers in the UK high street under the brand name of Jersey Pearl. I head a team of six dealing with all aspects of the Group's finances for those locations.



Andy Brandham – Parent Governor

I joined the Governing Body in 2014 as a Parent Governor. I am the school link governor for Safeguarding and Health & Safety, as well as the subject link governor for Science, Art and Design. I currently have two children attending Cowes Primary School. I work full time as a pharmacist, working for four island GP practices. I also enjoy keeping fit through running regularly and I play for Island cricket and pool teams.



Emma Lincoln - Parent Governor

I took on my role as Parent Governor in December 2017. I have a daughter at the school, and am keen to work with the staff and Governing Body to ensure the pupils at Cowes Primary School receive the best possible education and experience at the start of their schooling, and to ensure each child is able to achieve their full potential both academically and socially. I have worked in the charitable sector to support people with a range of disabilities of all ages. I myself am partially sighted. Currently I work for Age UKIW on a project, which aims to create an Age Friendly Island. This work, whilst primarily supports those over the age of 50, has an ultimate goal to ensure people of all ages are considered. I have regularly worked with children and staff in schools to address issues around disability and shifting cultural attitudes around ageing. I trained as a professional singer, and believe that music and drama is an important part of children's development and experience. I look forward to working in my new role on behalf of the parents at the school.



Hilary Richardson – Local Authority Governor

I was invited to join the Governing Body of Cowes Primary in November 2016, having been introduced by Paul Fuller, the local Councillor and have been designated as the Local Authority Governor. I retired to the island in July 2016, from position of Deputy Head /Head of Science at a Kensington Preparatory School, where I had spent 10 years happy, fruitful years. I have experience in recruitment, to the curriculum, setting up residential visits, offering exciting and new challenges to the pupils, to teaching from EYFS to 11+.



Liz Jackson – Co-opted Governor

I joined the Governing Body in July 2016 as a co-opted governor with responsibility for Literacy. I have no other involvement with the school as either a parent or a teacher. However I am a retired Isle of Wight Primary Head Teacher and as such I feel I have many skills and a wealth of experience that I can bring to my new role. This will enable me to give something back to the local community and to contribute to the continued success of Cowes Primary school.



Amy Duncan – Co-opted Governor

I Have joined the Governing Body of Cowes Primary School in September 2017 as a co-opted governor with responsibility for Special Educational Needs, More Able, Disadvantaged & Personal, Health & Social Education. I am also a Parent of a child currently in the school. I am currently working part-time as a Children’s Occupational Therapist in the NHS and prior to this I was a Primary School Teacher with a specialism in early Years. I am also a Director for Blackberry Lane Nursery and Preschool. I enjoy spending time outdoors and on the water volunteering at the local sailing clubs.



Rachael Groves – Staff Governor

I have been working in school environments for 22 years, starting out by volunteering, working as a Midday Supervisory Assistant and as a Learning Support Assistant. I have worked as a teacher at Cowes Primary School for 12 years and began my journey as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT). Twelve years on and I am now the Key Stage One Leader, Science Coordinator and Food for Life Coordinator. I have a real passion for the outdoors and thoroughly enjoy engaging our children in their learning outside, especially when sowing, growing, producing and harvesting a range of fruits and vegetables within our own school garden. If I am able to get the children to cook and eat our fresh produce - then even better. Although I am new to the role of Staff Governor, I am very much looking forward to developing my own understanding of how the school is run; bringing my own perspective to meetings and representing the team of teachers within the our fabulous school.



Rod Ainge – Co-opted Governor

I have recently joined the Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor. I am 72 years old and have been married to Jenny for 49 years. I am the owner of my own business that has been established in Cowes for nearly 30 years. Our only child was educated at Cowes Primary and I have very much involved on a voluntary basis in schools in the area. I have been a member of Cowes Business Association for 26 years and was Chairman for 5 of those years. As a Grandparent and Guardian I look forward to representing their views and aspirations



Nicky Coates - Deputy Head & Associate Governor

Having had a long and successful career in finance I started working in schools over 20 years ago. I had always been interested in education and how children learn, especially those with learning difficulties. Whilst studying for my degree I worked as a Learning Support Assistant and soon realised that teaching was the career for me. I joined Cowes Primary as a Class Teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in 2011 having worked in several schools on the mainland. Jersey and the Isle of Wight. I have previously served on the Governing Body as an elected Staff Governor and am now, as the Deputy Head, an Associate Governor.



Abigail Sollars - Associate Governor

I joined the Governing Body in 2010 after moving to Cowes with my family. I now have one daughter at the school, the eldest having moved on to High School. I have recently stepped down as Chair after 4½ years. I am the link governor for Special Educational Needs (SEN), Gifted & Talented (G&T) and PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education). I work part time, both as a massage therapist and a nurse.

Governors who have left the Governing Body during the last 12 months

Type	Name	Term of Office (From)	Term of Office (To)	Date Left	Reason for Leaving
Co-opted	John Barrie	10/02/2015	09/02/2019	14/03/2017	Moved away
Co-opted	Lynne Westhorpe	01/09/13	31/08/2017	31/08/2017	End of term of office
Co-opted	Abigail Sollars	15/07/2013	14/07/2018	19/07/2017	Resigned as co-opted governor but now an associate governor