

# Cowes Primary School – Role of Governors



## What do School Governors do?

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 have 1 vacancy for a co-opted governor with a financial background** – 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](mailto:clerk@cowespri.iow.sch.uk)

## The Governing Body (25/11/2018)

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	GDPR, Quality of Teaching, Governor Training
Vice Chair & Co-opted	Amy Duncan	14/09/2017	13/09/2021		More Able, Disadvantaged & SEN
Co-opted	Liz Jackson	12/07/2016	11/07/2020	Pay & Finance	Overseeing Foundation Subjects, Early Years & Literacy
Co-opted	Vacant				
Co-opted	Vacant				
Co-opted	Gillian Phenix	17/05/2018	16/05/2022	Marketing	PDL & RSE
Co-opted	Paul Taylor	17/05/2018	16/05/2022	Marketing	RE
Local Authority	Hilary Richardson	24/11/2016	23/11/2020	Pay & Finance	Maths & Science
Parent	Andy Brandham	02/02/2015	01/02/2019		Health & Safety, Safeguarding & Attendance
Parent	Emma Lincoln	14/12/2017	13/12/2021	Marketing	Overseeing Foundation Subjects
Staff	Rachael Groves	21/10/2016	20/10/2020		
Associate	Nicky Coates	04/09/2017			Deputy Head
Associate	Alison Radcliffe	20/09/2018			
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 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 have worked for Red Funnel since moving to the Island nearly 12 years ago and I am currently based at their West Cowes ticket office.



### **Amy Duncan – Vice Chair & Co-opted Governor**

I joined the Governing Body of Cowes Primary School in September 2017 as a co-opted governor with responsibility for children with Special Educational Needs, Disadvantaged and More Able. I am also a parent of a child currently in the school. I work 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. In my spare time I enjoy spending time outdoors and on the water, volunteering at the local sailing clubs.



**Andy Brandham – Parent Governor**

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



**Emma Lincoln - Parent Governor**

I was elected 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 all our pupils receive the best possible education and experience at the start of their schooling and go on 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.



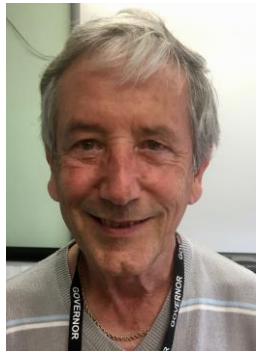
**Hilary Richardson – Local Authority Governor**

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 happy, fruitful years. I have experience in recruitment, the curriculum, setting up residential visits, offering exciting new challenges to the pupils and in 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 role. This will enable me to give something back to the local community and to contribute to the continued success of Cowes Primary school.



**Paul Taylor**

Having joined the Governing Body as a co-opted Governor I am keen to learn my new responsibilities. I am an elected member of Cowes Town Council, with a strong interest in the environment, not only for Cowes but also the global environment. In the Council I have the responsibility of Chairing the Projects Committee and for Tree Planting & Appreciation. I was a Local Authority appointed Governor to St Helens Primary School during my time as a County Councillor. This was some 20 years ago and I am interested to see how primary school governance has changed.



**Gillian Phenix**

I joined the Governing Body in 2018. I have not been involved with the school as either a parent or a teacher. However I have worked alongside the school on many civic events, particularly in relation to the choir. I have over 30 years experience in Local Government in the Chief Executive's office then Civic and Lieutenancy offices. With this background I feel I have many skills and a wealth of experience that I can bring to this role. This will enable me to give something back to the community and help promote the continued success of Cowes Primary School.



**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, English 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.



**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.



**Alison Radcliffe – Associate Governor**

I have recently stepped down as Vice Chair of the Governing Body and am currently continuing as an Associate Governor in an advisory role. My specific skills are in finance and 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. I head a team of six dealing with all aspects of the Group's finances for those locations.

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	Alison Radcliffe	01/02/2017	31/01/2021	20/09/2018	Resigned due to work commitments
Co-opted	Rod Ainge	24/11/2016	23/11/2020	20/09/2018	Resigned for health reasons