

# 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 currently comprised of the full governing body and a Pay committee. The Governors are 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

If you are interested in applying to become a school governor or would like to have a chat in more detail about what the role involves, please contact the school office or email the Clerk to the Governors – [clerk@cowespri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@cowespri.iow.sch.uk)

## Cowes Primary School Governing Body including link subjects

**Stephanie Praetig**  
Head Teacher  
  
Sep 2009 – Present

**Sue Cox (Chair)**  
Local Authority Governor  
  
Term: 23/01/20 to 22/01/24  
Link: Wellbeing, Science, Literacy

**John Cross (Vice Chair)**  
Co-opted Governor  
  
Term: 23/01/20 to 22/01/24  
Link: Attendance, Health & Safety,  
Finance

**Alex Osborne**  
Co-opted Governor  
  
Term: 24/11/22 to 23/11/26  
Link: Safeguarding

**Vacancy**  
Co-opted Governor

**Rachael Groves**  
Staff Governor  
  
Term: 21/10/20 to 20/10/24

**Sandra Klembt**  
Parent Governor  
  
Term: 27/09/22 to 26/09/26  
Link: PSHE, Early Years

**Katie Flood**  
Parent Governor  
  
Term: 18/03/22 to 17/03/26  
Link: Maths, SEND, Disadvantaged &  
High Achievers

**Tina Jarvis**  
Clerk to Governors  
  
Oct 20 - Present

## 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.



### **Sue Cox – Chair & Local Authority Governor**

I joined the Governing Body in January 2020 and have been proposed as the Local Authority Governor by Cowes Town Council. Together with my husband I run a business based in the Cowes area and am also involved with the Cowes Business Association and the Isle of Wight Community Club.

Whilst I have no other direct involvement with the school, I believe that I have skills and a wealth of experience that I can bring to the role of Governor and give something back to the local community and to contribute to the continued success of Cowes Primary School.



### **John Cross – Vice Chair & Co-opted Governor**

I was co-opted as a Governor in January 2020. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2009 and I am the Group Regulatory Reporting Manager of a FTSE 250 company in the financial services sector. I have extensive experience of internal controls, financial reporting and external audit. I volunteered to serve as a governor in order to use my professional skills to support the excellent work being done at the school.



### **Alex Osborne - Co-opted Governor**

I sat my A Levels on the Isle of Wight after attending 12 other schools in four countries. I went away to attend university before coming back and beginning my career in education, a career which has taken me to work in some of the top schools in the country. This work has now allowed me to come back to the Island, and I'm keen to use my experience to provide benefit to the community that gave me somewhere to call home.

My time in education was a challenge, but thanks to exceptional staff, committed leaders, and robust governance, I was able to reach my educational potential. I'm looking forward to providing the same support to the school, its students, staff, and community in my role as a governor. I'm a passionate health and safety practitioner with experience across IT and facilities management, too.



### **Vacancy - Co-opted Governors**

#### [Applying to be a Governor](#)

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### **Katie Flood – Parent Governor**

I have two young children currently at Cowes Primary and enjoy seeing how they have thrived in their time at school. Recently I have volunteered to read with some of the children in my daughter's class, which has helped me to see first hand, the wonderful caring and positive environment the school staff have created. My careers have included jobs in Buying and now Finance for businesses on the Island. This has given me skills and experience useful to the Governing Body, including communication, numeracy skills and analysing data.



**Sandra Klemmt – Parent Governor**

My daughter loves her time at school and has made a great start to her educational journey at Cowes Primary School. I applied to be a parent governor as I was ready to get involved in the school community. My previous employment from catering, retail, customer service and account handling have taught me a variety of transferrable skills, in particular excellent communication skills and a tailored and personable approach to people.



**Rachael Groves – Staff Governor**

I have been working in a school environment for over 20 years, starting out by volunteering, then working as a Midday Supervisory Assistant and a Learning Support Assistant. I began my journey at Cowes as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT). I have a real passion for the outdoors and enjoy engaging our children in their learning outside, especially when 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. As 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 our fabulous school.

Governors who have served on 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	Amy Duncan	14/09/2021	13/09/2025	27/01/2023	Resigned
Co-opted	Margaret Goodwin	21/03/2019	20/03/2023	20/03/2023	Term ended
Co-opted	Rachel Mulcahy	18/05/2023	17/05/2027	26/09/2023	Resigned

*Updated 02/10/2023*