

# 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 one sub committee – Pay & Finance. 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

**Amy Duncan (Chair)**  
Co-opted Governor

Term: 14/09/21 to 13/09/25  
Link: Safeguarding, GDPR, Finance Committee

**John Cross (Vice Chair)**  
Co-opted Governor

Term: 23/01/20 to 22/01/24  
Link: Governor Training & Development, Attendance & Chair of Finance Committee

**Margaret Goodwin**  
Co-opted Governor

Term: 21/03/19 to 20/03/23  
Link: Early Years, PDL & RSE, SEND, Disadvantaged

**Sam Pickard**  
Co-opted Governor

Term: 04/04/19 to 03/04/23  
Link: Maths, Science

**Liz Jackson**  
Co-opted Governor

Term: 12/07/20 to 11/07/24  
Link: Literacy, Quality of Teaching, Foundation subjects, Finance Committee

**Vacancy**  
Co-opted Governor

**Vacancy**  
Co-opted Governor

**Rachael Groves**  
Staff Governor

Term: 21/10/20 to 20/10/24

**Sue Cox**  
Local Authority Governor

Term: 23/01/20 to 22/01/24  
Link: Wellbeing & RE

**Mary Hillary**  
Parent Governor

Term: 08/05/21 to 07/05/25  
Link: Health & Safety, Computing, Finance Committee

**Vacancy**  
Parent Governor

**Nicky Coates**  
Associate Member

Deputy Head Teacher

**Tina Jarvis**  
Clerk to Governors

Oct 20 - Present

## Introduction to the Governing Body



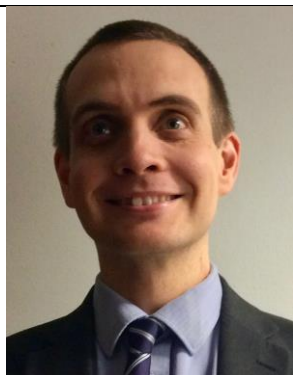
### **Stephanie Praetig – Head Teacher**

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.



### **Amy Duncan – 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. More recently I have taken on the role of safeguarding governor. I have no direct involvement with the school but do have a primary school aged child and live and work in the local area. I currently work part-time as a Children's Occupational Therapist and prior to this I was a Primary School Teacher with a specialism in Early Years. In my much sort after spare time I enjoy spending time outdoors, on the water and volunteering in the local community.



### **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.



**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.



**Mary Hillary – Parent Governor**

I decided to become a Parent Governor at Cowes Primary School as a way of giving something back to the school. My twins attend the school and their experiences have always been really positive and their teachers amazing! I have worked for the Local Authority for 21 years and currently provide HR advice and support to a variety of schools on the Island. I therefore hope I can transfer my skills and experience into this role and learn some valuable experience for my own personal development. I am passionate about supporting people to improve their mental health and wellbeing and helped to establish and Mental Health Working Group in my workplace. I am also currently studying counselling to improve my knowledge in this area and to potentially become a counsellor in the future. I feel extremely enthusiastic and committed to this role and hope to work as part of the Governing Body to make a positive impact for other parents, children, and the whole school community.

**Vacancy – Parent Governor**



**Sue Cox – 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.



**Margaret Goodwin – Co-opted Governor**

I was invited to join the Governing Body of Cowes Primary School in March 2019. Following many years working with children and young people in Primary and Secondary schools as a teacher, Head teacher and advisory teacher, I have more recently been involved with the voluntary sector as the Chair of a regional Cruse Bereavement Care and as an Elder of the Church of Scotland.



**Sam Pickard – Co-opted Governor**

I joined the governing body in April 2019 and look forward to gaining experience as a Governor. I live in Cowes and I work as an Engineering Manager at Gurit and manage a team of engineers across Europe, China and America. My daughter started at Cowes Primary in 2017. We were nervous about her starting school but the warm welcoming atmosphere and wonderful teachers have made us all very happy. My son has since also started the school so I have a serious and long-term interest in the success of the school. I love the Cowes community and have family and friends within the town. This has been extended since my daughter started school and my wife joined the Friends of Cowes Primary. I also want to help the school, pupils and teachers to thrive and believe I have valuable skills that can best help contribute as a Governor and will enable me to actively become actively involved in the Cowes community as a whole.

Be a School Governor



### Vacancy - Co-opted Governor

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### Rachael Groves – Staff Governor

I have been working in a school environment for 22 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 am now the Key Stage One Leader, English Coordinator and Food for Life Coordinator. 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 the our fabulous school.



**Nicky Coates - Deputy Head & Associate Member**

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.

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
Staff	Rachael Groves	21/10/2016	20/10/2020	N/A	Term ended (re-elected)
Parent	Chris Frisby	23/01/2019	20/02/2023	25/01/2021	Resigned due to other commitments
Co-opted	Julie Drew	21/11/2019	20/11/2023	17/08/2021	Resigned due to other commitments
Parent	Andy Mayes	21/03/2019	20/03/2023	07/09/2021	Resigned due to other commitments
Co-opted	Amy Duncan	14/09/2017	13/09/2021	N/A	Term ended (reappointed)

*Updated 21/09/2021*