



Whitby Heath Primary School

Meet the Governors

Emma Scorer – Parent Governor - Chair of Governors

I have spent over 20 years providing and supporting businesses in leadership/direction, business, finance and people management. As a parent to two children at the School, I have a natural interest in the success of the school as it relates to its strategic aims. I found myself getting more involved in school life and fully believe in the importance of a great working relationship between parents/carers and the school to achieve the best positive outcomes for the children.

A Parent Governor is valuable in terms of how the school works and being able to assist in its progression. This is something I am very much looking forward to and I can make a positive contribution to the school so that it can continue to remain highly successful.

Gemma Earlam – Parent Governor – Vice Chair of Governors

I am the parent of a child in Key Stage 2 so I have a personal interest in making sure the school works well for my daughter and a genuine interest in ensuring the same for others too.

My background history is within hospitality management and with 15 years of experience I have gained a vast skill set including financial, planning and communication skills. I aim to use my experience and skills to support the school in making sure we continue to improve and develop, ensuring that children are given maximum opportunities to discover their full potential through education and extra-curricular activities. It is a privilege to be a parent governor at Whitby Heath Primary School.

Stuart Wright – Head Teacher

I have worked in education for close to 25 years and it is a pleasure to return to Whitby Heath as Headteacher. I previously worked at Whitby Heath as Deputy Head for 5 years from 2011, before leaving for my first headship in 2016. It's fair to say that it was a wrench to leave Whitby Heath and so the opportunity to return in 2023 was one I could not pass up. Over the course of my career, I have worked in schools across 3 local authorities; during this time, I have also worked as an education consultant, working with school leaders across the country. I have been a governor of 4 schools, including a high school which gave me a thorough understanding of how we can prepare primary children for the next phase of their education.

I am passionate about education and I especially love learning about the science of how children learn. Working with children every day is a genuine privilege and I am dedicated to ensuring every child can fulfil their potential.

Jane Swindells – Staff Governor

I am extremely proud to have worked at Whitby Heath for the past 16 years, first as a TA (Teaching Assistant) and then as an HLTA (Higher-level Teaching Assistant), in both KS1 and KS2.

I became the Staff Governor in May 2023 because I am passionate about the school and its ability to support children. I have 3 children who all came to this school and thrived; therefore, I want to help all children flourish in their learning journey and equip them with our core values which will help lead them to succeed in life.

I am dedicated to ensuring that children feel happy, safe and valued, in a caring school environment that celebrates efforts and achievements, so they can achieve their full potential.

David James – Co-opted Governor

I am delighted to be a school Governor at Whitby Heath Primary School, working alongside a like-minded team of committed and professional colleagues. I look forward to supporting the school in providing the best outcomes for the children as they strive for continuous improvement in all areas.

I have worked within education for over 20 years, my main area of expertise being in Early Years and Physical Education. I currently operate and oversee a large number of settings where I work in partnership with local authorities to support and develop strategies to implement high-quality education and childcare throughout the region.

I have a particular passion for Physical Education and believe a strong curriculum should not be a separate agenda. It should instead be at the heart of every school in order to support children's well-being and challenge them outside of the classroom. By doing so we are also able to provide breadth and diversity of opportunity across varying contexts to enthuse and equip children to go on to lead healthy, happy and active lives.

Caroline Palmer – Co-opted Governor

I am delighted to have joined the governing body at Whitby Heath. I work at Whitby High School as a Pastoral Lead; I have worked at Whitby High for 16 years. When my children were younger, I was a member of the PTA for over 10 years. I have also just stepped down as Parish Councillor after 10 years. I am passionate about education for children and doing the best to support them through their formative years.

Mike Rodgers – Co-opted Governor

I have been a teacher for 33 years, the last 11 of which were as headteacher of Brookside Primary School in Great Sutton. I started my career working for Kirklees LEA (Yorkshire) where I worked for 7 years. I came back to live in Wirral with my young family, which is where I am originally from, in 1996. I retired in September 2022 having worked for Cheshire LEA for 26 years.

I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement, but I have also been looking for an opportunity to help a school in any way I can. When the phone call came from Whitby Heath, I listened very carefully to find out what the philosophy and plans were from the current headteacher to move the school forward. I was very pleased to realise this was the opportunity to use my knowledge and experience to support Whitby Heath. I am looking forward to working with the governing board and all stakeholders.

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