THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Meet the Governors

Judith James (Chair of Governors)



I have been working in Education for over 40 years and more recently been Headteacher of two schools in West Sussex. I have experience of working with Governing bodies to lead school improvement and make decisions to ensure the best possible education for the children. I have enjoyed leading and facilitating training courses for teachers and INSET days for staff, parents and governors. During my time working in schools, I have always enjoyed good working relationships with children, staff, parents, governors and all outside agencies. I have a passion for learning, especially in the Early Years and I currently work as an Associate Link Tutor at Chichester University, where I teach Art to the students and also mentor students on their placements. Being a governor at Thakeham enables me to support the Headteacher to realise her vision and continue the improvements she has successfully made so far.

Sam Norton



I am proud to be Headteacher and Staff Governor at Thakeham Primary School leading a dedicated team of staff and governors to ensure the very best learning opportunities for each and every child. Our wonderful children, caring family ethos with strong parent and community support, really make Thakeham a very special place for our children to learn and grow. Becoming a primary school and relocating to our new site at Rock Road has been an exciting phase in the school's history which is facilitating even greater opportunities with improved facilities and resources on site supporting high quality teaching and learning. One of the joys of working in a small school is getting to know the children each by name, ability and nature, our school just like every child within it, is truly unique!

Emma Hopkins



I am a Staff Governor and Assistant Headteacher at Thakeham Primary School. I have been teaching for over twenty years and have held the position of Deputy Head and staff governor in another West Sussex school. I joined Thakeham in 2013 as the PPA music specialist and have continued to develop music throughout the school. I am currently the year 5 / 6 teacher and I coordinate English, Computing and Music across the school. I am the Deputy Safeguarding Officer and work closely with the Headteacher on assessment. I am passionate about enabling each and every member of our community to achieve their best and to enjoy their time spent learning. As a Governor, I am able to work closely with a dedicated team who have the child at the centre of everything they do.

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Cheryl Stockwell



I am a Parent Governor and have two children at Thakeham Primary School. I work from home as a Book-keeper and Credit Controller and prior to that had always worked within Accounts-based roles with both multi-national companies and small businesses. I have a good understanding of Finance and Business Operations.
I have become a Governor as I feel I have the time and qualities needed to undertake such a role.

Paul Skelding



My name is Paul Skelding and I'm a co-opted Governor. I moved to Thakeham in 2017 with my family and wanted to get involved in the local community straight away as I'm a great believer in providing support when I can. I have three children and my youngest attended the Primary school and really enjoyed his time there. I have worked across many industries in risk management and been very lucky to visit many countries with my work, however, there is nothing better than being able to offer your time to try and make a positive difference where you live. It's such a joy to part of Thakeham Primary School as a Governor, as you see closely the dedication and massive commitment the Head and the whole of the teaching team give on a daily basis. The children all seem really happy and pleased to part of a thriving school and they work extremely hard. The ethos and values of the school resonates with me whole heartily, and I'm looking forward to adding value wherever I can to assist the school fulfil its long-term vision.

Gina Webb



I am a former Thakeham pupil currently working for a local Housing Association. I have previously worked for a Local Education Authority and have a specialist knowledge of attendance and inclusion. As a child, I grew up in Storrington and West Chiltington so I am very familiar with Thakeham and the surrounding village communities. I am delighted to have been appointed as a Governor and look forward to supporting the school in delivering opportunities for children in the local community.

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Kate Nolan



I originally qualified and practised as a solicitor before becoming a full-time mother to my 3 sons who are now grown up. I served as a magistrate in Nottingham for 12 years. I was chair of the parents' groups in my sons' junior and senior schools and when the youngest left I was asked to become a school governor, with specific responsibility for Early Years Foundation Stage. My husband and I moved to West Chiltington in 2018 (I feel like I have "come home" as my family are from Sussex) and I am keen to contribute to local life, particularly in the field of early education.

Judy Tuck



After 17 years of school headship and more than 32 working in education, I understand the critical role of great governance in supporting school staff to secure the best experiences, opportunities and outcomes for children and their families.

I have worked across all age ranges and have a thorough knowledge of education strategy from nursery and EYFS to key stage 4.

Now retired and living very locally, I am so pleased to be a governor at Thakeham Primary School and believe my skills and experience complement those of the governing body. I am passionate about learning and equality of opportunity for all and I am committed to supporting the Headteacher and staff in achieving the school's vision for the future.

Tom Gray



I have lived and worked in West Sussex for my entire life, and I'm keen on providing something back to the local community that has provided so much for me.

I have worked as a software developer for a little over 10 years, and have produced, managed and maintained simulation products primarily in the air training and simulation domain, but more recently within in space and maritime sectors.

I'm passionate about all things Science, Maths and Engineering, and outside of computers I pretty much play and/or watch any sport! I'm eager to bring my enthusiasm in these areas to the Governor role at Thakeham, but also to continue to learn about and contribute in other areas – I firmly believe you are never too old to learn something new!