



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Meet the Governors

Kate Nolan

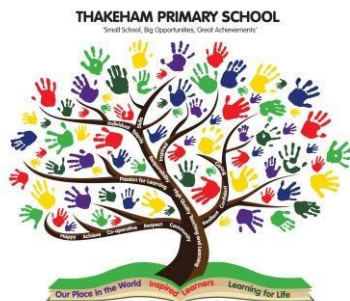
I originally qualified and practised as a solicitor before becoming a full-time mother to my 3 sons who are now grown up. I served as a magistrate in Nottingham for 12 years. I was chair of the parents' groups in my sons' junior and senior schools and when the youngest left I was asked to become a school governor, with specific responsibility for Early Years Foundation Stage. My husband and I moved here 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.



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.





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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.



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.



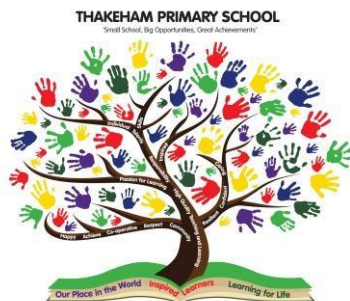
Tom Gray

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 the 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!





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Karen Bridle

I am a Parent Governor here at Thakeham Primary School. I'm Mum to 3 children with my younger 2 attending Thakeham School and an older one at Steyning Grammar School. In my professional life, I have worked for 20 years in the NHS as a mental health practitioner after qualifying as an Occupational Therapist in 2002. For the past 5 years I have worked in Higher Education leading mental health and wellbeing services for university students. I have a strong passion for ensuring the wellbeing needs of young people are met and as such belong to a provider's forum for Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health in West Sussex. I hope my knowledge and skills in this area will contribute to the development of the school to help ensure our children's wellbeing needs are met within education.



Elizabeth Stewart

As a co-opted Governor, I hope to give something back to my local community and provide as much support as I can to the staff and pupils at Thakeham Primary. I originally qualified as a primary school teacher in 2010 and taught in schools in both Hampshire and Kent for almost four years. Since leaving teaching, I joined the Civil Service where I've been lucky enough to work on some very exciting projects across Government such as the First World War Centenary programme. I am currently the Deputy Head of the UK Honours System, where we work to give national recognition to those doing vital and extraordinary work across the country. I have a strong passion for all things learning, especially for science and maths and through my 8 years in the Civil Service, I have experience of working on governance and policy issues in Government. From my time teaching, I know how rewarding teaching is, but also how demanding it can be. I hope to use the skills that I have gained over the last few years to help Thakeham Primary succeed.

