

Meet the Governors

Robin Conway

Governor Type: Co-Opted Governor

Term of Office Ends: 25th Sep 2023

Roles: Co-chair of Governors, Learning and Teaching Lead Governor, Inclusion Lead Governor, Member of the Headteacher Pay Committee



I currently work at John Mason School as history teacher and Director of Research and Innovation. This means that I have responsibility for keeping up-to-date with educational research, policies and developments and sharing these with our teaching team. I have worked at John Mason for 15 years, and taught children from all of the local primary schools, including St Michael's. I came to know St Michael's through leading some staff training on educational research and curriculum development. I have become further involved as a governor because I believe that primary education is so fundamentally important to children's development and future progress. I believe it is incredibly important that we work to protect and support small, local schools because they provide such a formative experience for children.

Nick Field

Governor Type: Parent Governor

Term of Office Ends: 1st March 2024

Roles: Co-chair of Governors, Safeguarding Lead Governor, Learning and Teaching Deputy Lead Governor, Inclusion Deputy Lead Governor, Member of the Headteacher Performance Committee



I was appointed as a parent governor in March 2020. Throughout my life and have had a huge interest and passion in ensuring the best outcomes for children and young adults. I have worked in a large secondary school supporting students both academically and pastorally, and more recently I worked within Oxfordshire County Council's Special Educational Needs Team, working with students with the highest levels of SEN to ensure that appropriate support was in place so that they were happy, thriving and making progress academically and socially. I have a strong belief that a school should provide the best environment so that every child is safe and can fulfil their potential – and that school governors play a key role in reinforcing this, and supporting the school in meeting the needs of all of its students, whatever their needs.

Tim Owen

Governor Type: Co-Opted

Term of Office Ends: 30th May 2023

Roles: Vice Chair of Governors, Finance Deputy Lead Governor, Staffing Deputy Lead Governor, Member of the Headteacher Performance Committee and Pay Committee.



Somme battlefield.

The first half of my career was spent in marketing, running a marketing events company specialising in supporting the car industry. During some of this time, I was also the director of a national classical music competition for young people, and a director of the Institute of Sales Promotion. Having sold the business, I went back to university and gained a PGCE, and then spent sixteen years teaching (mostly history), both in the private and state sectors, and at senior and primary levels. In the last three years of teaching, I was SENCo leading a team of five specialists. I have also been a Parish Council clerk and finance officer, and secretary to a church PCC. I am now retired and spend my time working on various history projects and leading the occasional trip to the

Ruth Gardiner

Governor Type: Staff Governor

Term of Office Ends 1st January 2026

Roles: N/A



I joined St Michael's in March 2020 and I am really enjoying getting to know the school and getting involved in the school community. I love being part of the team in Acorn class and prior to my appointment I had worked in the early years for 4 years. I moved to Oxford in 2017 and before this I was a Children's and Families worker for my church in Nottingham. I also have experience in finance administration and site management, which has given me a diverse range of skills and knowledge that I am looking forward to using to benefit the school and the wider community. In my spare time I enjoy gardening and cooking.

Nigel Goode

Governor Type: Local Authority Governor

Term of Office Ends 10th Feb 2024

Roles: Finance Lead Governor, Premises and Health and Safety Lead Governor Member of the Headteacher Performance Committee and Pay Committee.



I moved to Steventon over ten years ago and I became a governor at St. Michael's in early 2016. I had previously been involved for over fifteen years as a governor at the village school that our children attended in Northumberland. I believe that it is essential that we provide children with the best possible start in life through the positive experiences and quality of education that they receive at primary school. Engagement with learning at these early stages will be critical to their later development and we, as governors, have a key role in supporting the delivery of these objectives. I graduated with a degree and doctorate in organic chemistry and spent my working life in the pharmaceutical industry - with over thirty years in senior leadership roles, most recently heading up a business on Milton Park. I retired almost eight years ago but have retained a keen interest in education as a lifelong process that begins with the seeds sown at primary school.

Phil Sutton

Governor Type: Foundation-Ex-Officio

Term of Office Ends: 29th Oct 2023

Roles: Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Lead Governor



Phil originally trained as a medical engineer and worked for twenty years in children's and new-born intensive care units developing a range of implantable heart monitors and life support systems. Following ordination, he returned to the NHS to serve as a lead for hospital chaplaincy and bereavement services in Bath, Bristol and Oxford. Phil retains a close involvement in medical ethics and specialist bereavement support for parents who have lost a child. Phil and his wife Jane work with the Dogs for Good charity training assistance dogs for adults and children. Phil is currently also a governor at St Blaise C.E Primary School.

Kathryn Mendus

Governor Type: Foundation



Term of Office Ends: 25th November 2023

Roles: Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Deputy Lead Governor

Kathryn moved to Steventon almost 30 years ago. She qualified as a solicitor in 1983 and retrained as a counsellor from 2009. Kathryn continued to work at her first placement at Oxford University Counselling Service after qualifying. At OUSCS she was able to develop her thinking around the links between education and life experience, and physical and mental health and well-being. She developed a continuing interest in the uses of creativity and reflection in education and welfare. She has trained additionally with a number of more specialist organisations, such as OXPIP (where she studied parent/carer and child relationships) and MEET in Oxford (where she studied ways of working with trauma), to further develop her experience and practice. She now practices as a psychotherapeutic counsellor working in Steventon, and Oxford where she continues to work with students

Ann Parham

Governor Type: Co-Opted

Term of Office Ends: 31st August 2024

Roles: Whistleblowing Governor



Ann is passionate about young children and education. She was a primary school teacher and Headteacher before working for Oxfordshire Local Authority as a Headteacher consultant and so has spent her working life in education. Ann is Local Leader in Governance so can support other schools and their Governing board. Ann is a member of Oxfordshire Governor's Association. She has lived in Upton for 26 years and before that lived in Blewbury. Ann attends St Mary's Church and is a member of the PCC. She has two grown up sons and two young grandsons.

Adele Frankum

Governor Type: Parent

Term of Office Ends: 30th September 2024

Roles:



I was appointed as a parent governor in October 2020. My son still has 5 years at St Michaels. He absolutely loves the school so I have a big interest in ST Michaels and want to be a part of making the children's years in primary school and enjoyable happy safe place to be.

Alex Rennie-Lis

Governor Type: Parent

Term of Office Ends: 27th February 2026

Roles:



I was appointed a parent governor in March 2022. I have lived in Steventon since 2016 and am passionate about our school, having helped with the SSA for the past four years.

I have two foster-adopted children - one already at St. Michael's and the other due to start in 2022 - so have a natural desire to ensure the best possible environment and opportunities for pupils.

I am Chief Technology Officer at Cornwall Insight, a leading consultancy in the energy sector, and have worked at senior executive levels for at least the past decade in various technology, retail and consulting roles.

Current Vacancies

- See vacancy section of the Governor page on the school website

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