




Meet the Governors

Robin Conway, Chair of Governors	
Co-opted governor	
Term of office ends:	4 th October 2027
Roles:	Chair of governors. Committees: headteacher performance management, pay panel, appraisal panel. Lead governor for: learning and teaching.
	When not a governor, I am Deputy Headteacher at John Mason School as well as teaching philosophy and history. 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. What I love about St Michael's is the vibrant atmosphere and the sense of children really enjoying their time at school. The values of the school align with my own and I believe in individual schools preserving their unique identities and cultures, which is one of the things that makes St Michael's such a special place.

Tui Solomon, vice-Chair of Governors	
Co-opted governor	
Term of office ends:	7 th June 2027
Roles:	Vice-Chair of Governors Lead governor for: inclusion.

Nigel Goode	
Local Authority governor	
Term of office ends:	21 st March 2028
Roles:	Committees: headteacher performance management, pay panel, appraisal panel. Lead governor for: finance, premises and health & safety


	<p>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.</p>
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Phil Sutton	
Foundation governor, ex-officio	
Appointed:	29 th October 2019
Roles:	Committees: pay panel Lead governor for: ethos and values (including SIAMS)
	<p>I 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, I returned to the NHS to serve as a lead for hospital chaplaincy and bereavement services in Bath, Bristol and Oxford. I retain a close involvement in medical ethics and specialist bereavement support for parents who have lost a child. Together with my wife Jane, we work for Hearing Dogs UK training assistance dogs for adults and children with hearing and complex health needs. I also serve as a governor at St Blaise C.E Primary School as part of my work as the Church of England minister for the villages of Steventon and Milton.</p>


Kathryn Mendus	
Foundation	
Term of office ends:	25 th November 2027
Roles:	Lead governor for: safeguarding and child protection




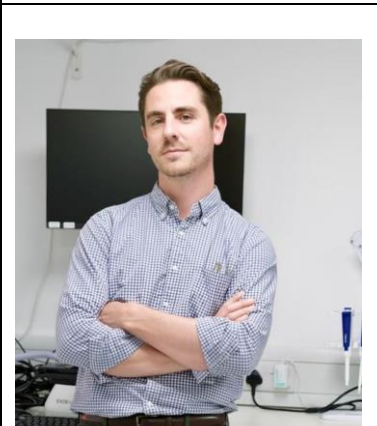
I moved to Steventon almost 30 years ago. I qualified as a solicitor in 1983 and retrained as a counsellor from 2009. I continued to work at my first placement at Oxford University Counselling Service after qualifying. At OUSCS I was able to develop my thinking around the links between education and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


Ann Parham	
Co-opted governor	
Term of office ends:	7 th June 2027
Roles:	Lead governor for: Whistleblowing
	I am passionate about young children and education. I was a primary school teacher and Headteacher before working for Oxfordshire Local Authority as a Headteacher consultant and so have spent my working life in education. I am Local Leader in Governance so can support other schools and their Governing board. I am a member of Oxfordshire Governor's Association. I have lived in Upton for 26 years and before that lived in Blewbury. I attend St Mary's Church and am a member of the PCC. I have two grown up sons and two young grandsons.

Ruth Gardiner	
Staff Governor	
Term of office ends:	1 st January 2026
Roles:	

	<p>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.</p>
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Alex Rennie-Lis	
Parent governor	
Term of office ends:	27 th February 2026
Roles:	<p>Committees: headteacher performance management, pay panel</p> <p>Lead governor for: Monitoring and Filtering</p>
	<p>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 with one in reception at St. Michael's - so I 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 and consulting roles.</p>

Steve Green	
Parent governor	
Term of office ends:	9 th March 2027
Roles:	Lead governor for: Governor induction and training
	<p>I was appointed a parent governor in March 2023. I have two children who are the fourth generation of our family to attend St. Michaels. As a specialist in the early-stage development of medical devices I don't claim to be an expert in the educational system. However, I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to learn, to do what I can to support the talented team here at St. Michaels, and to give something back the village community.</p>

Sarah Hudson	
Co-opted governor	
Term of office ends:	11 th May 2027
Roles:	Lead governor for: Community engagement
	<p>I was appointed a Co-opted governor in March 2023. Since my little girl started at St Michael's in 2021, I have taken a keen interest in how the school ensures that all pupils are supported and given the best possible start to their education. I have worked in Academic Publishing for over 16 years, so understand the importance of nurturing a love of learning and keeping students engaged throughout their school careers. With a Chartered Management diploma and a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt qualification, I have a real focus on streamlining processes, as well as agreeing and aligning best practices.</p>