

# Governors' profiles

## Jo Farthing (Vice Chair)



I have lived in Claygate for 13 years with my 2 children and husband.

I studied Law at university and worked as a lawyer until starting a family.

I have worked on policy and compliance issues in a school in Wimbledon but now volunteer as an adviser at Citizens Advice Esher. As well as being the vice chair on the governing body I also liaise with the PSHE subject head to oversee how the subject is developing. I am also the contact governor for Health and Safety.

I am a keen salsa dancer and yoga enthusiast.

## Ruth Kennard (Parent Governor)



I have two children, one currently in Year 3 and one in Year 1 at CPS. Originally from New Zealand, I found the UK school system a very new experience and decided what better way to try and figure out how it works than to get involved in the school as a parent governor.

Outside school life, I work in financial systems for a national broadcaster and bring my experience in technology, risk and controls to my governor role.

I am the link governor responsible for Computing and EYFS.

## Louisa Thacker (Parent Governor)



I have lived in Claygate for 9 years with my husband and three sons. The eldest two are currently in years 4 and 6 at Claygate Primary School and the youngest is still a baby. We love the community spirit of Claygate and accessing the nearby countryside.

I work as Clinical Psychologist in a children's hospital and care very much about the mental health and psychological well-being of children, their families, and the adults who work with them. A regular part of my work is to link closely with schools. I was keen to become a parent governor to give something back to the school and share my skills to contribute to the success of the school.

Out of work, I like to spend time with friends and family, I enjoy keeping active and love to sew.

## **Clive Thompson (co-opted Governor)**



I have been the Hon Secretary of the Claygate Probus Club for the past 7 years. I am on the committee of the Friends of St George's Church Esher responsible for building and maintenance matters and I am also a trustee of Claygate Village Hall where I provide advice and support in respect of building matters to the Hall Manager.

I work with the school on it's health and safety and I am a part of the swimming pool project team. I am also on the resources committee.

I have 11 grandchildren and many of these are in their primary education. My eldest daughter is a teacher in a primary school in Dorset and I therefore have a direct interest and commitment to primary education. I feel privileged to offer some degree of support and use of my experience to support our Primary School here in Claygate.

## **Meryl White (LA Governor)**



I was born in Yorkshire and spent most of my working life in leadership roles in education and local government in the north of England, raising young people's achievements and aspirations. I moved to Claygate in 2020 to live near my family, including 2 grandchildren who attend Claygate Primary School.

I am an enthusiastic volunteer and enjoy giving of my time in the wider community. I am delighted to support Claygate Primary School as a Governor and chair of the Resources Committee and link Governor for Literacy, Reading and English. I bring experience, intellectual commitment to achievement for all, value for relationships, boundless enthusiasm and pride in the success of pupils and staff.

I am a cookery writer and presenter, sharing my passion for traditional baking. I have a keen interest in food history and write regularly on my Blog and other editorial platforms. I enjoy gardening, walking, swimming, singing, playing the saxophone and reading.