

Governors' profiles

Peter Adams (Co-opted Governor)



I have been a Governor at Claygate Primary School since December 2021; it's my first Governor role, and I have loved getting to know the School, the amazing people that work there, and the wonderful children we guide through the early years of their life. I studied Physics at university, and am the Science Subject lead for the Governors. I have two children – 5 and 2 – who attend the School and nursery respectively.

In my work life I am a qualified accountant, and work for the Civil Service managing a multi-billion pound a year budget, ensuring financial compliance, regularity and propriety, etc. I hope this is useful experience to bring to the Governing Body, and am vice-chair of the Resources Committee.

In any spare time between working and kids, I enjoy DIY (though am not necessarily good at it!), cycling, football, and boardgames.

Hannah Chambers (Co-opted Governor)



I have lived in the centre of Claygate for the past 5 years and have 2 young sons. I love the family life of the Village and its proximity to both the Surrey countryside and the City. I am honoured to be a governor of CPS to be able to give back to the community we live in.

I am a Big 4 trained Chartered Accountant and for the last 12 years I have worked in various senior Finance roles in a large corporate Retailer

When time allows outside of work, family and governor life I love to try new restaurants and cook and then head to the gym or dance to balance it out! I am also a keen traveller having lived and worked in Australia and travelled all over the world

I am the link governor responsible for History and Humanities and am also on the Resources committee.

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.

Simon Tanner (Co-opted Governor)



My family moved to Claygate from Surbiton in June 2021, and I have been a Governor at CPS since the start of 2023.

I attend Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, where I am a member of the PCC. My wife is a midwife at Kingston Hospital and is also a SEN governor at our daughter's former primary school in Surbiton. My daughter is a performing arts graduate and currently works as a TA at CPS. I lead a Strategic Advisory Team at CBRE.

I am really energised by working on things that genuinely make a difference and I think it is important to give back to, and serve, the society in which I live. I also think that education is vital. I understand that running a school is a massive challenge, balancing the needs of the children and their parents and the staff with government policies. I want to help Claygate Primary School thrive and provide top quality education and facilities for the children of the village.

In my spare time I enjoy Cycling, walking our two Schnauzers, eating out and live music.

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.

John Thompson (Co-opted Governor)



I have lived locally in Elmbridge for almost 20 years with my teacher wife and our two teenage children. I work in London in the financial services sector and since working from home during the covid lockdowns became more keen to increase my involvement in the local community. I know first-hand the incredible impact that early educational support can have on transforming lives and opening doors so was particularly thrilled to become a governor at Claygate Primary School.

I studied Law and German at university, but since taking my Masters in IT, have worked in consultancy and IT, spending my career in the Financial Services industry, focussed on business change management and strategic advisory on innovation/tech.

I hope my experience of working with a range of organisations and governance models can add value to CPS. My responsibilities at the school include looked after children (LAC and previously LAC) and those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). Building on my professional experience in Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG), I am also lead governor on CPS's new Sustainability working group which aims to promote environmental initiatives in and around the school.

Outside of work, I enjoy family time, water sports, keeping up my foreign languages and travel.

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.

Rachael de Vizio (Parent Governor)



I have lived either in Claygate or Hinchley Wood for the past 13 years - we moved here to escape the London rush and never looked back! Our 3 children were all born here.

I have been in secondary and higher education for over 25 years and I am committed to helping each child achieve their potential by supporting the school with their planning and decisions.

I work with Mrs Ali regarding safeguarding and online safety and I liaise with the subject leads in Art, Drama, Music and French.

All of my children either attend or have attended CPS. We all enjoy a good walk around the woods, the village and the coffee shop!

I am a parishioner and a catechist at the Church of the Holy Name in Esher.