

Governors' Profiles

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.

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.

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.

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 its 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.

Lynne Murray



I've been a parent governor for 2 years and feel really passionate about contributing to the special place that is Claygate, and ensuring that all children, whatever their background, get the best start in life they can.

I've lived here for 3 years, moving down from Manchester with my husband and 2 boys- and was the PTA Treasurer at the boys' previous school and also a Trustee for the Miscarriage Association.

I have over 20 years' experience primarily in finance, and am currently Finance Director for Channel 4, after going back to education as an adult and completing my MBA! I am the link governor responsible for Art, Music and Maths, and am also the Health and Safety Governor, and it's great to work with our brilliant staff,

children and my fellow governors.

My life primarily revolves around being a soccer mom, taxi driver and juggling a full-time job, but I also love travel, current affairs, speaking Spanish and playing tennis (badly!)

Nez Zein



I moved to Claygate in 2022 and was pleasantly surprised on how powerful the sense of community was within the village. I have a toddler and have always had an interest in education so becoming a governor has been an aspiration of mine. I am proud to be a governor of CPS. It was clear from first meetings with the staff and children that it's a school that prides itself on its morals, principles and values. I look forward to supporting the team at CPS over the next few years.

I am a qualified solicitor working in an international law firm in London. My day-to-day practice ranges from large developments across the country to advising clients on funding affordable housing.

Anytime I spend outside of work is focused on my family and on occasion (when the ballot is kind) watching Arsenal at the Emirates.

Richard Bettinson



I have lived in Claygate since 2020 with my wife & son and love the brilliant sense of community in the village. My son attends Claygate Primary School, and I joined as a parent governor in July 2025, having been impressed at the high quality of teaching & strong values at CPS and hope to be able to help assist in any small way, to make the school even better. I work in marketing, specialising in paid media, measurement, and consumer insights. I currently work at Hilton Hotels having previously worked at EA Sports, Three and eBay.

Outside of work and family life I enjoy travel, being outdoors exploring, exercising, watching sport and am a season ticket holder at Brentford FC.

Sarah Apps



I have lived in Claygate for the past 10 years and recently retired after a fulfilling 35-year career in the City, working for an American bank within their Digital Channels team. Prior to that, I ran a training company delivering corporate courses focused on Wang Computers software packages.

Family is central to my life. I have two adult sons, a step-daughter, and three wonderful grandsons—the youngest just two years old. I love Claygate's strong sense of community and, now that I have the time and energy, I'm keen to give something back. Becoming a governor at CPS is a meaningful way to do that. With a young grandson, I have a personal stake in the education system and am passionate about helping CPS provide a safe, inclusive environment where every child can thrive. This is my first governor role, and I'm excited about the learning journey ahead and the opportunity to contribute positively.

Retirement has given me the freedom to spend more time with family and friends. I regularly care for my youngest grandson and visit my 95-year-old father in Thames Ditton. I also make time to stay active—walking, swimming, and enjoying Zumba—as well as gardening and reading to unwind. Travel is another passion, and I'm looking forward to a trip to Canada in 2026.

Fiona Beighton



I became a governor in October 2025 because I wanted to give something back to the community I've been part of for nearly 30 years. Having raised two children here in Claygate, I know how important our local schools are in helping young people grow and thrive. I really value the way this school makes the most of its wonderful indoor and outdoor spaces to create such a stimulating and welcoming place to learn.

I'm a Partner in a large accountancy firm, where I've worked for over 39 years in risk management and quality operations, and more recently in coaching our people. I've also served on several governance committees.

Outside of work, I enjoy a number of volunteer roles and love spending time outdoors — hiking, skiing, or walking my dog.



I have been teaching for over 20 years and have been part of the team at CPS for almost 10 of those. I am proud to work in a supportive school with strong links to the local community and was delighted to be appointed as a Staff Governor. I am particularly passionate about early literacy and currently lead both oracy and reading, areas I believe are fundamental to children's success and confidence across the curriculum.

Outside of school, I am a proud mum to three wonderful daughters and a nanny to one very curious grandson. In my spare time, I enjoy swimming, reading and travelling. I am a lifelong Spurs supporter, showing true commitment despite their ups and downs! More recently, I have also developed a love for Formula 1. I am looking forward to contributing to the governing body and supporting the school as it continues to grow and thrive for the children and families it serves.