



Benson C of E Primary School

Benson C of E Primary School Governors Profile Information

Jo Chapman – Parent Governor, Chair of Governors

Jo became the Chair of Governors in 2016, having been a Parent Governor since 2015 when her daughter started at Benson Nursery. Jo runs her own management consultancy business and is passionate about making a difference and adding value to organisations and communities. As a Management Consultant she brings many transferrable skills that support the school and she leads the Governing Body to the benefit of the children, parents, teachers and community. Her aims as the Chair of Governors are to ensure that the school continues to strive for exemplary learning and that the Governing Body supports and adds value in achieving this goal.

Ian Skeels – Parent Governor, Vice Chair of Governors

Ian was elected as a Parent Governor in 2014. He has a son in year 4. He was previously a Community Governor at Icknield Community College in Watlington for four years. He has a degree in history and a particular interest in music and the arts. He works in marketing and product management and has over twenty years' experience in ICT and the education sector. Ian is chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the school's curriculum, assessment and performance

Helen Crolla - Headteacher

Helen has been headteacher at Benson CE Primary School since January 2013. She has led the school through two Ofsted inspections and feels privileged to work with many skilled professionals. Helen is passionate about providing children with a safe environment where they can learn about the world, celebrate their strengths and be supported to master the things they find challenging.

Helen is also a member of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, which enables her to learn about the issues and initiatives for Church schools. Recently, she has qualified as a SIAMS inspector, which means Helen can inspect other church schools and learn how to make Benson truly outstanding.

Pat Mead - Parent Governor

Pat was elected as a Parent Governor in September 2014. He is the chairperson for the Resources Committee and also a trustee of the Benson Church of England Voluntary School Trust, who manage the playing field and school cottage for the benefit of the school. Pat and his wife have lived in the village since 2005 and their two children attend the school. Pat's professional career has included engineering, technical support, product marketing, press relations, business development and sales within the telecommunications, electronics and IT industries.

Hazel Nicholson – Foundation Governor

Hazel has been a Foundation Governor (appointed by the Diocese) since 2013. She is interested in developing a closer relationship between the church and the school. Hazel has worked for the past 25 years within the fields of mental health, homelessness and supported housing. This has involved managing small teams, supporting vulnerable people and networking. Hazel is currently Chair of the Personnel Committee and believes in the importance of fostering the wellbeing of both staff and pupils. She is part of the group of volunteers who assist with the school library.





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Emma Long - Staff Governor

Emma has been teaching at Benson School for two years now and is passionate about helping develop it in any way she can. Emma has experience of teaching Years Three and Four but is currently teaching Year Six. She co-ordinates history and geography and is Pupil Premium Champion, ensuring that disadvantaged children are supported, appropriately. Emma is a member of the resource committee, to learn more about the way the school is financed and maintained.

Kate Hart – Co-opted Governor

Kate's particular interests are in disadvantaged children, children with special needs, children with disabilities and safeguarding. Kate is now retired but when working was a trained social worker and a senior manager of children's social services, so is very aware of the importance of education for children's life chances. She is also aware of the need for schools to be responsive and adaptive to children with particular needs and difficulties. Skills include those of service and personnel management, data analysis, management for compliance with standards, and quality oversight and control. Her values include the need to protect and promote children's rights and well being.

Simon Jarvis – Co-opted Governor

Simon has served as a parent governor since April 2009. He graduated from Loughborough University with a degree in manufacturing engineering and is currently IT Director at Smeg UK Ltd. in Abingdon. Both of his children were pupils at Benson but are now an age where they are at secondary school. During his time as a governor he has been Finance Chair & Resources Chair, now serving on Resources Committee & Personnel Committee.

Andrew Bown – Parent Governor

Andrew recently became a Parent Governor in September 2017.

Vickie Holcroft – Associate Governor

Vickie became an Associate Governor in September 2017, following her term as a Foundation governor for the school.

