



St John's CofE Primary School
Governor Biographies – March 2022

Claire Lowe (Chair and Foundation Governor)



I became a Foundation Governor in April 2013, when my daughter Katie was in Year R at St John's. Katie is now at Wellsway School and my younger daughter Isabelle started at St John's in September 2017. I became Chair of Governors in January 2019. I am passionate about ensuring that all children who attend St John's reach their full potential and I find my role as a governor very rewarding. I have a DPhil in Chemistry from the University of York and prior to having children I worked in Policy and Research for the British Dental Association. I took a career break to look after my children, and during that time I ran St John's Church Toddler Group and St John's Church Kidzone (Sunday mornings). I was also a parent rep for Queens Road Pre-school. I worked at the RUH in Bath in Clinical Trials from September 2018 to December 2021 and I currently work for Health Education England, commissioning education for healthcare scientists. I am also an active member of St John's Church.

Louisa Aldridge (Vice Chair and Parent Governor)



I took up the role of parent governor in October 2017, my son having started St. John's in 2016. My daughter then started in 2019. Following my Physics degree and PGCE at Bristol University I have worked in education for nearly 20 years, initially as a secondary school science teacher and then in senior leadership roles across a multi academy trust. Having been an assistant head teacher in one academy I now work across the multi academy trust to improve science for all students. I feel that I can use the experiences that I have had in local schools to benefit our children at St John's and I look forward to taking an active role in the life of the school. I am passionate about excellent education for everyone and would like to support St John's to continue being a fantastic school for students, parents and the local community.

Duncan Tyler (Parent Governor)



I was delighted to be elected as a Parent Governor in 2018. I have two children at the school and while they don't like to tell me much about their time at school, I know they are very happy and receiving a great all-round education both academically and through learning life skills. I have worked in the financial service industry for over 25-years covering a broad range of specialisms including Strategy, Marketing, Finance, Digital and Property Management. In my spare time I have too many hobbies to get time for and have to spend much of it playing computer games with the children! I am the Governor lead on Pupil Premium, which focuses on getting the most out of our funding for children who may need extra support. I am also the lead on Sport & Fitness which is not just about exercise but helping children make healthy choices.

Both areas I feel strongly about and am really pleased with the focus the school gives to them. We have a great school, with fabulous staff, who are focused on getting the best out of every child and I am proud to be playing a part in it.

Tom Gent (Foundation Governor)



I took up the role of foundation governor in September 2015, I have a girl in year 7 at Wellsway and a boy in year 5 at St John's. I have lived in Keynsham and been part of the St John's parish for the last 10 years.

I studied at Nottingham before teaching English abroad and then became an IT consultant in London before moving to Bristol. I joined the police, where I have enjoyed working primarily in a mixture of community policing and emergency response for the last 15 years, I am currently a police response Inspector in central Bristol. I wanted to be a governor as I am passionate about supporting the school to deliver the best education possible for our young people and am mindful of the

positive contribution that schools play in our local community.

Jon Medlin (Co-opted/Community Governor)



I became a co-opted governor in April 2018, and have two daughters at St John's. I was brought up in Keynsham, and attended St John's. We moved back a few years ago having lived and worked in a number of places. Whilst away, I studied in Cardiff and London and qualified as a chartered town planner. I mainly work with planning and delivering affordable housing policy and development of growing communities. I also work with individuals, charities and neighbourhood groups to provide free or low cost access to environmental or planning advice. I'm a volunteer with the Environmental Law Foundation having previously been trustee of the charity Planning Aid. I am very interested in the role of schools in the wider community, and supporting St John's future strategic direction to enable a well-rounded education for all the pupils.

Jennifer O'Reilly (Parent Governor)



My daughter started Year R at St John's in September 2020 and I became a parent governor in July 2021. Following my English literature degree at University of Warwick, I initially worked in marketing for a few years before completing my primary PGCE in 2007. Since then I worked for three years teaching in Blackburn with Darwen, and then moved to Bristol in 2010 where I have been teaching ever since. As my daughter is just beginning her school career, I was keen to play an active role in the life of the school and to help St John's provide an exciting, engaging education for all of its pupils

Claire Graham (Ex-officio Staff Governor and Headteacher)



I took up the role as Ex-officio governor when I became the headteacher in September 2019. I firmly believe in the power of diversity and the innate potential of every child. I actively seek to discover the individual talents of each child to support them in their unique journey, ensuring they reach their full potential. I have found that headship in primary education is an excellent way to achieve this. Early in my career I accepted the opportunity of becoming a 'Leading Teacher' for the county. This developed into spending the next 11 years as Assistant Headteacher and Headteacher in Ofsted graded 'Outstanding' primary schools. Whilst leading in these roles, I have come to understand that when the whole school community

works together, the ongoing impact and consequential results for the children, is exceptional.

Sandra Yeoman (Staff Governor)



I took up the role as staff governor at St Johns in February 2018. I am originally from the Northeast of England I moved to Bristol 26 years ago. I am married and a mum of 4 boys and I have just recently become a nan for the first time. I have worked at St Johns for 13 years, starting my career here as a SMSA, then taking on a teaching assistant role. 3 years ago, I was given the opportunity to take on the role of Pastoral and Learning Support Mentor and Deputy Safeguarding Lead across the School. This role gives me the opportunity to work with lots of children and support the children and their families, something that I find very rewarding.

Joanna Powell (Staff Governor)



I took up the role of staff governor in October 2018 after I became Year 6 Class Teacher and SENCo at St Johns. Following my Geography degree and PGCE at The University of Sheffield I moved back to Bristol to begin my teaching career. I have taught across Key Stage Two and have led all areas of the curriculum at Primary level. I am passionate about enabling all pupils to succeed and working closely with families to achieve this. I feel I can use my experiences to date to support our children at St Johns in achieving their full potential.