

Chertsey and Dorking Nursery Schools and Mole Valley Family Centre

Meet the Governing Body 2020-21



Anita Cheeseman – Associate Governor

I took on the role of Head of School at Chertsey in September 2018, after being a Deputy Headteacher & Senior Leader for many years in a local primary school. I have a passion for Early Years and made the move to Chertsey Nursery School to share my knowledge and expertise in this area. I feel that it is important that we make sure that 'Foundation Stage' education is of high priority to ensure that children get the correct foundations for future learning and development, this is driven by the close workings of Governors, staff and parents.



Gary Everett – Parent Governor

I became a governor in 2020, when my son joined Chertsey nursery having moved to the area in the same year from Derby.

I studied Accountancy and Finance and have spent the last 15 years working in Senior roles in Dixons Carphone and Samsung with a focus on delivering operational excellence and strategic direction. I am keen to utilise the skills developed in the commercial sector to build on the great work already been done. I am also a member of the resources committee.



Ben Foley – Parent Governor

In my professional life, I am a School Improvement Advisor and school governor, working and learning with a number of primary schools in London and in Surrey. I am the former Headteacher of two primary schools in South West London, where our vision was to provide the best educational experiences for all children, equipping them with life-long learning skills ready to face the ever-changing world. Alongside being on the Governing Body of another local faith primary school, I was appointed to this Federated Governing Body in October 2020 and believe that I have the skill-set and educational knowledge to support and challenge the settings to ensure they continue to provide the highest educational standards and outcomes for the children and their families.



Lisa Harding – HR & Administration Assistant and Acting Clerk to Governors

I have lived in Chertsey for over 40 years. I have two children that attend local schools. I worked for Chertsey Children Centre since 2017 and then transferred across to Chertsey Nursery School in 2019. It is wonderful being part of the team who are working for the best outcomes for the children of our local communities.



Donna Harwood-Duffy – Executive Headteacher

As Executive Headteacher at Chertsey and Dorking Nursery Schools and Mole Valley Family Centre, I am automatically a member of the Governing Body. I have been the Headteacher at Dorking since 2013 and thrilled to share this expertise in the role at Executive Headteacher over Chertsey and Dorking from 2018. I believe if we can make the Foundation Stage of a child's education count, then it will most certainly lay the foundations for them for the rest of their lives. I welcome the varied skills and expertise on our Governing Body, to not only challenge me, but also the whole team. This helps to drive the improvements of the entire Centre and by working together; we can give our children and families the best possible start.



Ella Hood – Coopted Governor

Every child deserves the best possible start for their journey on the road to lifelong learning. I have two grown up children who benefitted from high quality education in their early years, so I know the value of this phase of learning. I worked as a qualified actuary for many years at Pixham End in Dorking, so I bring skills & experience in finance, critical analysis and strategic development to the governing body.



Sandy Horvath –Associate Governor

I have had the privilege of being affiliated with the Centre since 1986 when my Daughter first went to Dorking Nursery School and we have had the pleasure of all four of our children attending. Around the same time I became a parent Governor on the then schools initial Governing Body and took on the role of `Chair` of Governors for six years. Unfortunately work got in the way and I had to step down until 2008 when I came back as a community Governor and chair once more. My previous background is in Public Service and I have a great deal of experience in HR management, operational and contingency planning and managing large budgets. I am totally committed to early years education and hope to be connected to our wonderful Centre in one way or another for many more years to come.



Clover Maguire – Parent Governor

I became a governor in 2016, at the time having a child in each nursery. I wanted a new challenge and to work with people again as I don't get to do that in my day to day job. Most importantly I wanted to use my skills to give something back for the fantastic support I had received. My background is varied, having started my career as a secretary, then completing a photography degree and later in a role that required medical knowledge and marketing skills. All these things help me to communicate well and understand how to find solutions to challenges and deal with change, skills I felt I could use in my role as a governor. I am particularly involved and interested in the special educational needs side of the nursery, the family centre and their work as well as being part of the marketing team. I have also worked in the 3-5's nursery so have seen Dorking Nursery from many roles.

I have four children, three of whom attended DNS. The support I have received as a parent has been game changing for my children and the experience they have had here has given them a perfect start to their education. Being able to give a little back as a governor is wonderful. I really enjoy it and I would recommend it to anyone.



Mary McCrea – Co-opted Governor

I have lived in Dorking for almost 30 years and have 2 daughters now in their 20s. My background is in HR and Learning & Development and I have a passion for coaching individuals to be the best they can possibly be. I now hope to bring some of that experience into the Nursery Schools and Family Centre and I feel privileged to be part of such a strong team who put the children at the heart of everything we do.



Sylvina Mellor – Co-opted Governor

I have a 30 year career in local government - education authority administration, across a range of services including admissions, finance and local management. Working knowledge of SENDIST- legal framework, service management and front line service delivery. I speak Polish - enough to have a simple conversation with a native Pole. Why did I want to be a Governor? I've spent the majority of my working life in education and passionately believe that education is a critical factor in society's development, social mobility and enhancing choices and opportunity for individuals. I maintain an interest in current developments and I'd like to continue to contribute and make a difference, if possible.



Fran Mills – Clerk to the Governing Body (Maternity Leave)

I am clerk to Governors board with previous experience of clerking in education. As a parent I have an interest in early years education. I completed my dissertation on Sure Start and the importance of the Early Years. I also work for the NHS in the Mole Valley Community Mental Health Recovery Service.



Yvonne Pohlwan - Staff Governor

I have worked as a Teacher at Chertsey Nursery since April 2016. I also have three grown up children and two grandchildren. I have taught since in Nursery and Primary settings since 2008. I am very aware of how we can help and educate our children to form the basis of their future life and how we can help the children and their families to aspire to build towards their education



Jackie Smith – Coopted Governor (Staff Governor)

I have two grown up daughters and I have been working with families in Dorking for the past 12 years, initially as a home-visitor and currently as an Outreach Worker. I became a Governor to gain a better understanding of the Nursery and Family Centre, and to help provide the best facilities and support for all our families. I am passionate about the work I do and aim to help families be happy, healthy and resilient.



Jo Suchy – LA Governor

I have worked as an Educational Psychologist for over five years now, including four years across Surrey schools and settings. I became a governor for Chertsey Nursery School in 2017 and have enjoyed supporting both Nursery schools and more recently the Family Centre since this time. In my professional role I understand the importance of quality early education in giving children the best life chances, and enjoy being able to contribute to this in my role as governor.



Helen Sutherland – Associate Governor

I have been a Children’s Centre Manager for several years and am now leading the Mole Valley Family Centre. I have seen the impact that high quality services can have on a young child. I believe the first 3 years of life are crucial and that families need to be part of a supportive and caring community in order to thrive. As a Governor, I want to support the teams in Chertsey and Dorking to continue to provide the support, education and opportunities that enable families to flourish.



Andy Whitehouse – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Governors.

Originally from Solihull, I have lived in Dorking since 2000. I am a qualified actuary having worked at Friends Life in Dorking and London. I believe I bring general business skills to the team, having had significant experience in finance and managing budgets as well as general management and project management skills. I feel I can use these skills in a different environment, and also to learn new skills whilst, I hope, contributing to the local communities. I became a governor at Dorking Nursery School in 2014 and at Chertsey Nursery School in 2018, and I am pleased to now be part of the Federated Governing Body covering both schools and the Mole Valley Family Centre.