

# Chertsey and Dorking Nursery Schools and Mole Valley Family Centre

## Meet the Governing Body 2021-22



### **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.



### **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 organisation 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.



**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**

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



**Neeva Shore – Cooped Governor**



**Jackie Smith – Coopted 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, Vice Chair of Governors**

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.



**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.