



September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the governors I would like to welcome you to Elmbridge Primary School. I thought it would be useful to introduce ourselves and give you some idea of how the Governing Body works.

Our governing body consists of 15 governors including the Head Teacher, parent, co-opted, authority and staff governors, as well as associate governors (which can exceed the 15 governors required). As part of a large school, governors delegate some decision making to three smaller committees which are the curriculum committee, buildings and finance committee, and the pay, performance and personnel committee. All governors visit school regularly to meet with pupils, teachers and senior leaders to review how the school is progressing towards its aims, the full governing body then meets six times per year to share information.

School governors are not necessarily from an educational background, this means individuals from a range of industries can utilise their professional knowledge at a strategic level, to make a positive contribution to children's education. Together with the head teacher we set the future direction of the school and decide how the school's budget should be spent. Governors scrutinise, ask questions and, if appropriate, raise concerns we may have regarding any matter that may arise. Governors make decisions on performance targets, school policies and the school's development plan, governors then monitor the impact of those policies and oversee the use of the budget. Governors also, very occasionally, consider complaints and hear appeals from staff or pupils.

As you can see from the foregoing there is far more to governance than first meets the eye, however in my opinion, our most important role is to facilitate the staff in delivering the best possible education for your children. Also, to help you put names to faces we are providing you with Governor Profiles including a picture of the Governor, their responsibilities on the Governing Body and a brief history of their background.

Yours sincerely,

John Vallender
Chair of Governors



Name of Governor: Glen Tharia
Years' Service: 16 years and continuous
Role: Co-Head Teacher
Committees: Finance & Buildings

Personal Profile:

As Head Teacher I automatically joined the Governing Body in April 2008 when I was appointed as Head Teacher at Elmbridge Junior School. Prior to this I was Deputy Head at Woodmancote Primary School for four years and an Acting Head for a year. I have three daughters, one in primary school, one at Sixth Form and one doing a Masters at Cardiff University, following her completion of a 3 year degree. Elmbridge Primary School is fortunate to have a dedicated and committed Governing Body and I have appreciated their support during my time as Head Teacher of the Junior School and since we became an all through Primary School in April 2016. I look forward to working with them to continue to develop the school's friendly and purposeful learning environment for all our pupils and staff.



Name of Governor: Amanda Holliday
First Appointed: 19.9.11
Role: Co-Head Teacher and Co-opted Governor
Committees: Curriculum
Link for: Child Protection and Wellbeing

Personal Profile:

I joined Elmbridge Primary School in September 2008 as part of the Senior Leadership Team. I am now an Assistant Head, working alongside Phill Riddle, and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). I provide pastoral advice and guidance to all members of our school community, including parents. I am passionate about developing our pupil and staff emotional health and wellbeing. I also work for the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) team as part of the local authority one day per week, offering support to other schools in the county to develop their Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. Both my children came to Elmbridge.



Name of Governor: Mr John Vallender
First Appointed: 19.10.20
Role: Chair and Co-opted Governor
Committees: Finance & Buildings & Personnel, Pay & Performance
Head Teacher Appraisal
Link for: Website Compliance

Personal Profile:

It felt right to get involved in being an Associate Governor at my old school, through involvement in the new IT suite and was then appointed as Co-opted Governor in 2021. I have twenty years IT experience in both the private and public sectors so have a wealth of knowledge I hope to bring to the school and team of Governors. I am an Elmbridge resident, keen to support the school community and have a daughter who started at the school in September 2021.



Name of Governor: Dean Allen
First Appointed: 27.3.23
Role: Vice Chair and Co-opted Governor
Committees: Finance & Buildings
Link for: Health & Safety

Personal Profile:

I am extremely proud of being part of such a wonderful school that has nurtured and supported my two daughters over the last 10 years. I have a diverse background, having served for 22 years within Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service and previously worked in health and fitness and Lloyds of London. I am passionate about ensuring all children receive high quality education and want to contribute to such a fantastic school by bringing my professional and personal experiences to the Board.



Name of Governor: Steven Beard
First Appointed: 30.9.22
Role: Parent Governor
Committees: Personnel, Pay & Performance
Link for: Policies compliance

Personal Profile:

I have a daughter in Year 4. I was born and raised in Gloucester and have worked locally for C&G/Lloyds Banking Group for over 34 years. For the last 15 years I have been a Legal Manager, specialising mainly in Privacy Law. I am a keen follower of Gloucester Rugby and enjoy tennis, cycling and golf. I have been very impressed with Elmbridge Primary School, its staff and seeing how they help the children develop and I am looking forward to supporting the school's continued growth.

Name of Governor: Matthew Bevis
First Appointed: 16.12.24
Role: Co-opted Governor
Committees: Personnel, Pay & Performance
Link for: Attendance
Personal Profile:



Name of Governor: Adrian Cole
First Appointed: 20.9.22
Role: Parent Governor
Committees: Personnel, Pay & Performance & HT Appraisal
Link for: Attendance & Safer Recruitment

Personal Profile:

I have 20 years' experience in the Police and have been a Police Constable since 2005. I currently work as a Police Dog handler and have been in my current post for 6 years. My sons are in Year 4 and Year 2. I am keen to ensure all children at Elmbridge get the best education possible, including those with SEND. I am an enthusiastic well motivated individual and would relish the opportunity to make a difference to the education of the children at Elmbridge. I believe I can bring a different perspective to the Governing Body as a parent governor.



Name of Governor: Paul Edwards
First Appointed: 15.7.24
Role: Co-opted Governor
Committees: Finance & Buildings and Curriculum
Link for:

Personal Profile:

It is a privilege to be on the board of governors here at Elmbridge and as I have two children in the school I am 'doubly invested'. I aim to use my skills and experiences from my broad career in third-party risk management, financial advice and digital transformation for the benefit of the school. Originally from Gloucester, I love all things gardening and rugby. Education-wise, I have two degrees in geography and history of art and in my spare time I volunteer in schools to advocate the importance of financial literacy.



Name of Governor: Rebecca Howell
First Appointed: 30.9.22
Role: Parent Governor
Committees: Curriculum
Link for: Wellbeing (Staff and Pupils); Safer Recruitment

Personal Profile:

I have lived in Longlevens for the past 15 years. I have a sound understanding of the role of a governor having previously been employed as a clerk to governors. Most of my career has been in Quality Assurance or Management within the Healthcare sector, both private and NHS. I have recently taken on a new role as an NHS Data support Analyst. My daughter attended Elmbridge Primary School and is now in her third year at Crypt senior school and my son is currently in Year 5 at Elmbridge. I have always had a keen interest in the education of all children and look forward to supporting Elmbridge Primary School using my transferable knowledge and skills I have gained from personal and work experience.



Name of Governor: John McNeill
First Appointed: 17.10.22
Role: Co-opted Governor
Committees: Curriculum and Personnel, Pay & Performance
Link for:
Personal Profile:



Name of Governor: Alison Petticrew
First Appointed: 11.10.19
Role: Co-opted Governor
Committees: Curriculum
Link for: ECT's
Personal Profile:
I started working at Elmbridge as a supply teacher in 2003 and regularly worked here, as well as in a range of other local schools, on a part-time basis. In 2014 I became a permanent, full-time member of teaching staff working across KS2 and have taught in Year 3 for the last 5 years. I love teaching at Elmbridge and feel lucky to work with fantastic children, parents and staff.



Name of Governor: Gemma Radford
First Appointed: 11.9.23
Role: Co-opted Staff Governor (Teaching)
Committees: Curriculum
Link for:
I joined Elmbridge in 2014, working in Year 3 for 2 years before moving onto Year 6 back into Year 3 and now head of Year 4. I am really committed to ensuring that every child thrives throughout their time at Elmbridge and I have a specific passion in developing the growth mindset of our children. I absolutely love working at Elmbridge and look forward to seeing how I can support the school further as a staff Governor.



Name of Governor: Phill Riddle
First Appointed: 2.10.17
Role: Associate Governor to the Finance & Buildings Committee with voting rights
Committees: Finance & Buildings
Link for: Data & Assessment

Personal Profile:
I first worked at Elmbridge as a supply teacher in 1998 and covered a maternity leave the year after. I became a permanent member of staff in 2002 after working at Powell's Primary School in Cirencester, when I took on the role of maths subject leader. Since then, I have joined the SLT and am now an Assistant Head Teacher, alongside Manda Holliday. My main interest and responsibility is assessment and making sure the school uses information in a way that helps all pupils reach their potential. I have two children myself, who attend school near where I live in Ross-on-Wye.



Name of Governor: Kelsa Rowland-Evans
First Appointed: 23.9.10
Role: Local Authority Governor
Committees: HT Appraisal and Curriculum (Associate)
Link for: Early Years, SEND, Pupil Premium

Personal Profile:
My working life has been devoted to working with children and young people. I am a qualified Nursery Nurse with many years of experience working in schools and pre-school. I have worked mainly for the County Council, managing a children's Day Nursery and setting up and running a Portage Service (home schooling for pre-school children with special needs and their families). I have lectured in Early Years and Education at Secondary level and at Gloucestershire College, as well as practicing as an Ofsted Inspector. I have 3 children who all attended the school.



Name of Governor: Miss Andrea Stubbs
First Appointed: 20.5.24
Role: Co-opted Governor
Committees:
Link for: Safeguarding and Early Years

Personal Profile:
Having worked within the NHS and private healthcare sector for 20 years, I hope to use my experience to support the school and pupils. My daughter is in year 5 and my son started reception in September 2024, I look forward to supporting Elmbridge.

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| | <p>Name of Governor: VACANCY</p> <p>First Appointed:</p> <p>Role: Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Committees:</p> <p>Link for:</p> <p>Personal Profile:</p> |
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