

Information about our Governors



Kate Collins – Headteacher



Kate has enjoyed a varied teaching career working across many different settings; from 5 form entry junior schools to three form entry primary schools located in Tower Hamlets, Dorset and Surrey, teaching from Reception to Year 6.

Maths has always been an area of specialism; attaining a Post Graduate Certificate in Mathematical Education from Brunel University, as well as being a lead maths teacher across Surrey, leading training in schools on both maths and assessment. Kate achieved her NPQH in 2014 and has used these leadership skills in her Deputy Headteacher role at Boxgrove Primary School and since February 2019, the Headteacher of Sandfield Primary School.

Kate's vision for education, is to inspire children to love learning, through a rich, engaging and broad curriculum.

Annemarie Gerstenberger – Health & Safety Governor



Annemarie was born and raised in Belfast. She moved to England to study A levels and then studied Law at Southampton University. There she met her husband and they moved to Guildford and started a family. Annemarie moved into management of Odeon Cinemas for 14 years then took two and a half years out to help her youngest child with his speech delay. Three years ago, she moved into management at Sainsbury's where she is currently running the night shift replenishment and online deliveries department.

Katherine Hammersley – Pupil Premium Governor



Katherine Hammersley graduated from the University of Manchester and worked as a management consultant before taking a career break when her two children were born. She now works at the University of Surrey, fundraising for the oncology research team and a local prostate cancer charity.

Katherine has been a Governor at Sandfield Primary School for the past 15 years, 9 of which she was Chair of Governors and for two years she was a Trustee of GEP. During this period she has overseen three Ofsted Inspections, recruited two headteachers and led Sandfield through academisation and joining the GEP.

Melanie Hancox – Chair and Data Governor



Melanie was born in Guildford and attended local schools. She has lived in London and the Calvados countryside, returning to Guildford in 2011.

Melanie is now an English teacher but, in the past, has worked as a costume maker in theatre, film and TV, in recruitment in the City and ran a wedding-dress making business. She realised in her 30s that studying English was what she should have done as an 18 year old, so completed a degree with the Open University in 2011, going on to be awarded an MA from Kings College London in 2013.

Melanie has taught at Guildford College and currently teaches part-time in the adult learning sector. She was a school governor for two years at an east London primary school and has been a governor at Sandfield since 2016 and at Guildford Grove (another school in the Learning Partners Academy Trust) since September 2021.

Samantha Hatton – Vice Chair and Safeguarding Governor



Samantha graduated from Reading University in 1998 before embarking on a career in the charity sector and administration. She moved to Guildford in 2013 where her eldest children attended Sandfield Primary School. Samantha's youngest daughter is currently in year 2. She hopes her previous experience will help her to work for the best interests of the children and school community.

Jennifer Mason – PTA Governor



Jennie is a primary school teacher of more years than she will admit! She has worked in many different types of schools across a range of areas. She has also been a school governor for many years – as a teacher, parent and member of the community. Jennie is also a former headteacher, current teacher trainer and mentor, and a vital part of the Sandfield team.

In her spare time, Jennie enjoys music, theatre, watching dancing (on Strictly!) and getting into her garden.

Paula van der Meulen – SEND Governor



Paula's first career was working as a Business Manager for HSBC. It was whilst taking a career break to be a full-time mum to her three children that she became interested in working in Education. Paula started volunteering at her children's schools listening to children read. This led to a 12-year career in primary and secondary education as a Home School Link Worker, supporting families with complex needs, and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Paula later went on to study Childhood and Youth Studies with the Open University and developed a professional interest in supporting children and young people with developmental language disorder.

As a SEND Governor, Paula champions the issues of special educational needs within the work of the governing body and has specific oversight of the school's arrangements and provision for meeting special educational needs. Paula is passionate about ensuring that the provision and education at Sandfield, for each and every child, is of a high standard of educational achievement, allowing every child to reach their full potential regardless of their personal circumstances.

Catherine Perceval – Finance Governor



Kate has a background in finance and HR and is currently Bursar at the Royal Grammar School which provides her with an insight into all aspects of school life. She has lived in Guildford for many years with her husband and two sons.

Carissa Ramkisson – Training/Development Governor



Carissa has a Prince2 certification in Project Management and an MBA from Brandeis International Business School. She has worked in the USA, Ireland and the UK as either a people leader or process leader. Carissa enjoys finding creative solutions to challenging problems and

hopes that her skills will benefit the Sandfield community. Carissa became a governor in July 2019 and is enjoying being an active member of the Local Governing Body.

Evelyn Slavid – EYFS and SCITT Governor



Having been a parent at Sandfield I have been a governor for a very long time! I was a teacher and I now work on two SCITT programmes recruiting and training teachers. I also work with Teaching Assistants who are working towards the status of Higher Level Teaching Assistant. My areas of responsibility as a governor at present are for EYFS and Pupil premium.

Chloe Woolger – Mental Health & Wellbeing Governor



Chloe has lived in Guildford all her life and attended Boxgrove Primary School and George Abbot as a child. Her career spans marketing and communications primarily in the research and insight sector, helping clients grow by listening and actioning customer feedback. Her two children both attend a school within the Learning Partners Academy Trust.

She was very keen to take on a community governor role to apply her commercial expertise and her experience from other volunteering roles to ensure Sandfield continues providing a high level of education to children.