

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.



Louis Hall – Technology Offer and Wellbeing Governor

Louis has lived in Guildford for the past 8 years after moving from London where he grew up. He has two children, one of whom attends Sandfield. He has a background in medicine and now works for Surrey County Council in the Public Health Department.

Louis is passionate about tackling inequalities and promoting diversity and inclusion. Having worked in the public sector for all of his working life, Louis is keen to apply his skills in leadership, strategic planning and collaborative decision making in his role as governor.



Melanie Hancox – Chair of Governors; Pay and Appraisal Committee; Educational Standards 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 – Safeguarding and Looked After Children 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 child still attends Sandfield. She hopes her previous experience will help her to work for the best interests of the children and school community.



David Kennedy – Pay & Appraisal Committee; Finance; Pupil Premium Governor

David graduated in Law from the University of Wales and also has a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management. He has worked in the banking & finance sector for over 20 years, primarily in lending, risk management and contact centre operations.

He is originally from Ireland and has lived in the UK for almost 30 years. He has three children, two of whom attend Boxgrove Primary School.

David is keen to use his business experience and passion for accessible and engaging education for all, to support Sandfield School and its children.



Claire McIlroy

Claire has 20 years of teaching experience, teaching across the primary age range from Reception to Year 6. She has taught in a diverse range of schools in both Kent and Surrey. Claire keeps abreast of cutting-edge developments in education and is keen to share these with colleagues through her role as Deputy Headteacher at Sandfield. Recent initiatives shared with colleagues have included the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching and learning. Claire is also a lead teacher of English, having led moderation and training across the school and Trust, for example on the use of diverse, high quality texts to support the teaching of reading and writing.



Catherine Perceval – Pay and Appraisal Committee Chair; Safeguarding and Looked After Children 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 – Diversity & Inclusion; Finance; Health & Safety, Estates and Compliance 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 – Vice Chair of Governors; EYFS; Educational Standards Governor

Having been a parent at Sandfield Evelyn has been a governor for a very long time! She was a teacher and now works on two SCITT programmes recruiting and training teachers. Evelyn also works with Teaching Assistants who are working towards the status of Higher Level Teaching Assistant.



Thishani Wijesinghe – SEND Governor