# Information about our Governors September 2026

**Hannah Clark – Community Governor**
Roles/ Link Area – Attendance and Behaviour; Safeguarding and Looked After Children

**Kate Collins – Headteacher**

Kate Collins has proudly served as Headteacher of Sandfield Primary School since 2019. She achieved her NPQH in 2014 and is currently undertaking the NPQEL to deepen her leadership skills beyond the school setting.

During Kate's six-year headship, Sandfield has transformed in many ways. The school now delivers a two-year rolling curriculum programme, organised into phase groups. This curriculum not only equips children with the essential skills and knowledge to succeed, but is also tailored to meet the specific needs of all pupils. At its core is experiential learning, enriched by a diverse range of rich and challenging texts.

A key milestone in Sandfield's journey has been its recognition as an Apple Distinguished School, achieved this year. This prestigious designation is awarded to schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous innovation in education and the effective use of Apple technology to inspire and enhance teaching and learning.

Under Kate's leadership, Sandfield is now focused on deepening the integration of technology across all subjects—making our curriculum vibrant, purposeful, and future-focused. The school is also committed to sharing its expertise with other schools, supporting their digital journeys and promoting excellence beyond our own community.

Exciting times are ahead for Sandfield Primary School.

**Stephanie Creal – Community Governor**
Roles/ Link Areas – Curriculum and Teaching/ Achievement

Stephanie is a primary school teacher with 15 years' experience in the state and independent sector, both in the UK and internationally. She originates from Sussex but now calls Guildford home, where she lives with her husband and two young children. Stephanie hopes that through serving on the board at Sandfield she will be able to support positive outcomes for children in the local community.

**Louis Hall – Parent Governor**
Roles/ Link Areas – Personal Development and Wellbeing

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.

**David Kennedy – Community Governor**

Roles/ Link areas – Vice Chair of the LGB; Chair of the Pay Committee; Finance; Pupil Premium

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 McIllroy – Staff Governor**

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 (Kate) Perceval – Community Governor**

Roles/Link areas – Chair of the LGB; Leadership and Governance; Safeguarding and Looked After Children; Pay Committee

Kate has a background in finance and HR and started her career at KPMG in London. For over 18 years she worked at the Royal Grammar School in Guildford as Bursar giving her experience across all the operational elements of a large junior and senior school. Her responsibilities covered finance, HR, estates, health and safety, IT, compliance as well as the safeguarding responsibilities held by all those working within a school.

She currently works as a freelance consultant within the education section.

She has lived in Guildford for over 21 years, has been involved with a range of activities across the wider community and her two sons attended Guildford schools and clubs throughout their education.

**Carissa Ramkisson – Parent Governor**
Roles/ Link areas – Finance; Medical Conditions and/or Allergy; Health & Safety

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 – Community Governor**
Roles/ Link area – Curriculum and Teaching/Achievement; Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

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 – Community Governor**
Roles/ Link area – SEND/ Inclusion

Thishani is currently Head of English at Royal Grammar School Guildford and has been a secondary English teacher for 15 years. She has two children, one of whom attends Sandfield.

Thishani is passionate about teaching and learning and is currently completing her NPQSL in school leadership. She enjoys her role as SEND link governor and supporting Sandfield school to offer the very best education for all.