

St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

Governing Body Members

Dominic Pioli – Foundation and Chair of Governors



I have been part of the Governing Body for the last 8 years both as parent and Foundation Governor. For the last 6 I have been elected, by the rest of the Governing Body, as Chair. We have a wonderful school and I'm immensely proud of the professionalism of the staff and their dedication to the children.

Daniel Beck –Local Authority and Vice Chair of Governors



I worked in the public sector for 30 years before retiring from the Metropolitan Police. I took up the role of governor at St Giles' school in order to put back into the community some of the skills I developed as a career Detective (a subject matter expert in covert intelligence gathering, risk management and social psychology). In my private life I am a consultant to a leadership, development and advisory company and deliver immersive, experiential training to C-suite executives in multi-national companies. I am currently the representative of the Local Authority and I sit as Vice Chair of the Governing Body, with strategic oversight of the schools safeguarding and child protection piece. I also sit on the finance and resource committee and various other panels.

Mercy Atkins – Headteacher



It is a privilege to be at the start of a child's journey in education and is why I do what I do. I started teaching in Newham 29 years ago and I have not looked back! From there, I taught in KS2 in Balham before moving to Surrey. I grew up in New Malden so know this part of Surrey really well. In 2002, I started at Riverview in KS1 and progressed to Assistant Headteacher and then Headteacher in 2013. Dance music, reading, travelling and spending time with friends and family are really important to me. I can also be spotted at F45 as well.

David Arnold – Foundation Governor and Chair of Resources Committee



I am a Foundation Governor appointed by the Diocese in 2015. During my career in the City, I was a tax partner at Ernst & Young for 28 years, retiring in 2016. During that time, I advised many large global corporates on international structuring. As I neared retirement, I took on a management role in leading the tax risk management function across Financial Services in the EMEIA region. Post retirement, I was elected Treasurer of St Giles and St Georges Church in 2019. My role at the school is principally to oversee the Finance function but also to serve as a link to the Parochial Church Council.

Charlotte Board – Staff Governor



I started teaching in 2013 and have enjoyed teaching a range of year groups across all Primary key stages. Since joining St Giles' I have taught every year group and have loved each one. It has made me appreciate and see the vital importance of teaching children at such a crucial point of their education. I joined the Governing Body as a Staff Governor in September 2023 and I have enjoyed seeing the way school is run from a different perspective.

Andy Greenhill – Parent Governor



I became a governor because I am passionate about children being given the opportunity to grow into their best selves and receiving the necessary support to become adaptable and resilient. Professionally I have over 15 years of experience teaching in Higher Education, and currently support senior leaders to further develop their leadership skills. In addition to this, I have been running a not-for-profit martial arts school for over 15 years and have worked with a wide range of children and young people from age three plus. I believe my background provides me with both a useful insight into the holistic needs of children as they grow and develop and into the foundational skills that will help them be successful in their academic and subsequent professional endeavours.

Joanne Lewis – Foundation Governor



I became a Foundation Governor in November 2019 and am excited to have joined a talented team of governors. I live locally and have 2 children who are both alumni and thoroughly enjoyed their time at the school. Day to day I work in Business Resilience which is part of Risk Management for a large corporate, and I hope to bring my business and risk skills and experience to the role. Any spare time I have (when I'm not chauffeuring my children) is spent walking the dog or running in the gym.

Nora Lewis – Foundation Governor



I am relatively new to the role of Foundation Governor for St Giles school having been appointed in September 2022. The reasons I agreed to take on this voluntary role is as a grandmother to two grandsons under the age of 6, I'm interested in their education and how Christian values are taught. In May 2023 I retired from Surrey County Council as a senior manager working in Adult Social Care; and bring to the role my social work experience, be it at the other end of the age spectrum!

Leanne Stewart – Parent Governor and Curriculum & Learning Committee Chair



I really appreciated the positive environment my children were part of each day at St Giles Infant school. They grew, not just educationally but spiritually, socially and emotionally. I decided that I wanted to play a part in ensuring many other families were able to gain as much from St Giles as my family had. With 20+ years of experience as a teacher in mainstream, private and special needs settings, I know that I have a wealth of knowledge and understanding that I contribute as a Parent Governor. As a family, we are involved in the local parish of St Giles and St Georges which helps to be well connected into the community.

Penny Thornton – Foundation Governor



My husband and I have lived in Ashted for 25 years and have four adult children, all of whom attended St Giles' School. A former Mechanical Engineer and Ofsted registered childminder, I retrained and have taught Physics for 14 years at a local independent school. I attend St Giles' Church and have been a Foundation Governor for almost 3 years. I am responsible for Special Educational Needs and Science curriculum governance and sit on the Curriculum and Learning Committee. I meet the SENCo and Science Coordinator termly, visit classrooms and speak to pupils about the SEND and Science experiences they have in school (a fantastic opportunity to see how supported the children feel). I run a school science day once a year with volunteer colleagues and students. Being a Governor is a rewarding way of giving something back to this amazing school community.

Harriet Trendell – Foundation Governor



My name is Harriet Trendell and I initially volunteered to be a Parent Governor when my son attended the school a few years ago. As an ex-pupil myself and a lifelong resident of the village, St Giles holds a very special place in my heart. I have numerous special memories of my time at the school and these helped me choose St Giles for my own child's first taste of formal education. I wasn't disappointed. The spirit, essence and ethos of the school were just as I remembered. I wanted to be part of the school's journey, helping to ensure its longevity for others to thrive and succeed in a happy and nurturing environment. When my term of office ended, I became a Foundation Governor in order to continue using my professional skills as an IFA and small business owner, to support the Head Teacher and staff of the school to continue in their mission.