

Our Governing Body

Chair of Governors - Helen Cracknell



My appointment as a Foundation Governor started in the Autumn 2015; before this I was a member of the Shadow Governing Body. I have been reappointed by Peterborough Diocese for a third term.

In my spare time, once a week, I support the National Trust as a room guide telling visitors about the history of one of their properties. I am a Christian and an active member of Gleneagles Church, Wellingborough, where I support several groups including the role of churchwarden. I am married with two grown up married sons and have one grandchild who attends Hayfield Cross Church of England School.

My experience is as a teacher for over 30 years and then a Headteacher in several schools: finally retiring from my last headship in August 2013. After which I worked part-time for four years at Northampton University in Initial Teaching Training supporting trainee teachers.

As a Foundation Governor at Hayfield Cross Church of England School I am focused on ensuring we have, with the staff team, an amazing school which is outstanding in all areas through which we can promote Christian values and beliefs. Every child has the right to high quality education in an effective, creative environment.

Vice-Chair of Governors - Simon Hurrell



I moved to Northamptonshire in 2013 from the southeast with my wife and at the time one child, four years later we moved to Kettering and the new Hanwood Park estate. I now have three children, with the eldest having been through Hayfield and the other two currently attending.

For a living I work at a UK Cloud and Network provider as a Senior Cloud Solutions Consultant aiding businesses and government bodies with their digital transformation. I am a practising Christian and in 2023 became a Governor at Hayfield Cross.

Becoming a School Governor means I can support the school and give back to the local community which I am proud to call home.



Lindsey Atkins

With over 20 years' experience in education and 7 years as a school governor, I have a rich understanding of our educational landscape.

I've launched my own initiative using arts to uplift confidence, particularly focusing on those with special educational needs. Every child, irrespective of their background, deserves an exceptional start in school. These foundational years are pivotal. We're not just imparting knowledge; we're equipping them with lifelong tools.

Through my role as a governor, I am committed to ensuring all children, especially those with unique needs, receive the best. Through collaboration and innovation, we can create a solid foundation for every learners' future.



Derek Price

I moved to Barton Seagrave in 1989 when I started work for Weetabix Ltd where I stayed for 30 years in the Finance and IT departments.

I have been a Foundation Governor at Hayfield Cross since June 2017. As a retired accountant I have spent most of my time supporting the Financial and Administrative functions within the school and help review the annual budget preparation process and resource allocation processes.

In addition, I have been involved with the SIAMS Group and HTPM group and a period as Joint Chair of Governors. I am a member of St Andrews, Church Kettering.



Steve Atkins

Having joined as a Foundation Governor in 2018, I am delighted to play a strategic role in both the present and future of Hayfield Cross. As such I am committed to striving to help to achieve best use of all our resources to achieve sustained excellence, embedding learning as a lifelong process for all whilst actively promoting the Christian beliefs and values underpinning the school's ethos.

My current roles include serving on the Admissions Committee and the SIAMS group. I have previous experience of being Chair and Vice-Chair at the school. Crucially, I am proud of the dedicated, committed team delivering high-quality education in a creative, supportive and inspiring way for each and every child.

After over thirty years in the teaching profession, culminating in fourteen years in Senior Leadership as Assistant Principal in a large Academy, I took early retirement a few years ago. My leadership background was in leading on best use of performance data and timetabling along with curriculum/staffing planning and delivery.

Beyond the Governor role I am a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) in the Church of England, currently serving as PCC Vice-Chair and Churchwarden at Christ the King Church, Kettering. My leisure interests include compiling/competing in quizzes, especially as charity fundraising events, whilst being a fan of almost all sports, having previously been a National Level hockey umpire, coupled with collecting whisky and related ephemera.



Raj Kapur

Parent Governor since 2021, current Safeguarding Lead Governor.

My eldest daughter joined Hayfield Cross in 2016 when there were less than one hundred children in the school. Over the next seven years it was a pleasure to see her and the school, grow and flourish. My younger daughter is in Key Stage Two.

I have been a GP, for over twenty years at the Eskdail Medical surgery in Kettering. Currently the senior partner. I work in an organisation with an incredible team with similar staff numbers and budget to Hayfield Cross. I bring extensive safeguarding, financial and managerial experience to my Governor role.



Kate Exall

I became a Foundation Governor in 2019 as a member of Christ the King Church, and have just been reappointed for a second term. I have lived locally for over 20 years and am married with 2 children who are both at University. In my previous life, I worked as a solicitor and now work at the University of Northampton as a Law Lecturer with a particular interest in Employment and Discrimination Law and lifelong learning.

I am very proud to be a Governor at Hayfield Cross and I am continually impressed by the hard work and dedication of the whole staff team in providing an excellent school environment and experience for each and every child within a strong Christian ethos. Outside of my work and my Governor role, I am a trustee of Accommodation Concern in Kettering and am a founding member of MishMash, a monthly afternoon of worship and activities for families with disabled children at Christ the King.



Michelle Mapurazi

I was appointed as foundation governor in the Autumn of 2023. I live on the Hanwood Park and am a practising Christian at Christ the King, Kettering. I have a child currently attending Hayfield Cross.

Professionally I am a social worker with over 10 years' experience and can contribute my professional knowledge as a governor.

As a governor my role is to ensure that the school values are reflected in the school's daily functioning and to maximise its visibility to the wider Kettering community.



Karen Woolard

I have been a Teaching Assistant for the past twenty years and I have seen many changes and how they have been implemented within schools.

I have two grown up children who have gone through our local education system and university, through to successful careers. I am thankful of the education they received and being a part of it.

It is a privilege to give every child the best start. I am proud to be a part of our Hayfield family.

Jason Elsom