



We are family • All are welcome • You are loved

Board of Governors 2025-26



Mary Wood - Chair of Governors, Foundation Governor, Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee

I retired from teaching in 2011 and my husband and I relocated to Yorkshire to be near our daughters and grandchildren. I had taught for over forty years in London and Bedford. I was Head of the Geography Department at a large upper school in Bedford. I then moved on to be Head of Year and then Head of the House system. My final role was as Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Inclusion. In 2012 I became a LEA Governor in a High School in Leeds. I enjoy the interaction with young people. I still get great deal of satisfaction from working within education and feel that I can make a valuable contribution. In 2017 I became a Foundation Governor at Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings School and in 2022 I became the Chair of Governors. I have enjoyed my new role; despite the pressure of more meetings, I value the insight it has given to me in the full range of education from Reception to Sixth form. It has also given me huge respect for primary school professionals.



Carolyn Barraclough – Foundation Governor

I taught Geography in York and Leeds for 28 years and was Head of Department. After I retired, I became a Foundation Governor in 2019 and hoped that the skills that I had acquired throughout my career could be used, and further developed in this role. I believe that every child should have the opportunity to fulfil his/her potential and that education has an important role to play in this. I have been a member of the Foundation Governors' committee and the Teaching and Learning committee. I have had a longstanding interest in sustainable development, both in education and at a personal level and I am pleased that this has become more important in the future planning for schools. In my spare time I am a member of a local current affairs and environment group, a flower club and enjoy reading.



Paul McCann – Parent Governor

My name is Paul McCann. I am a Parent Governor with three children, in Year 1 and Year 5 and my eldest son is at St Aiden's. I am passionate about working collaboratively with the governors, school staff, parents, and community to provide the best education for our children. In my professional career I am the Managing Director of a Global Technology Company and enjoy golf, tennis, and skiing in my free time.



Caroline Hooper – Foundation Governor, Chair of Resources Committee Caroline Hooper has been a Foundation Governor of Collingham School since 2016 having previously held a governorship at an inner city school in Leeds 10 years prior. She is a qualified Chartered Accountant, and currently chairs the Resources sub-committee which covers all Financial, Staffing and Premises matters for the school. Caroline is also the Governor responsible for Equalities working alongside Mr Cook and Mrs Swift to ensure equality of opportunity for all children who attend Collingham School.



Christine Lord – Foundation Governor

A Lancashire lass, my working life was spent in retail and manufacturing, mostly within Human Resources. We moved across the Pennines after retiring in 2020 to be nearer to our elder daughter and her husband. Since then we have welcomed two granddaughters, both of whom I hope will be able to attend Collingham LEH when they are old enough. I was appointed as a Foundation Governor in September 2023. I had been a governor when my own daughters were at primary school around 25 years or so ago. Whilst things have changed a great deal in that time, especially in relation to the amount of information we are required to take in, the focus remains on supporting the school in providing the best education for all the children. I hope that my contribution will be of value to the school as I continue to learn.

**Kara Swift – Staff Governor, Class Teacher & Early Years Lead**

Hello, I'm Kara Swift, the Reception teacher at Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings CofE Primary School. I am a staff governor and have been for several years. I have been teaching for 18 years and I have been a teacher at Collingham for the same length of time. I started here as a student and have worked here ever since! I absolutely love the school and its ethos and vision. There is nowhere else I would rather work! I started by working in Year 1 for a couple of years and then moved to Reception. I am extremely passionate about Early Years and child development. In my role as Reception teacher I have also been a moderator, moderating other schools in Leeds. Another part of my role is developing the curriculum and

I really enjoy personalising this to our school and working with all the subject leaders. On a personal note, I am a parent myself to two girls who are 5 and 9. On a weekend I enjoy going on days out with them and I also enjoy running.



Dr Julian Harrison - Foundation Governor Julian lives in Collingham with his wife Laura. He has 2 adult children, who attended Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Primary School. Both children thrived at the school and are pursuing successful careers, thanks in part to the great start they made there. Julian studied at the Welsh school of pharmacy in Cardiff to achieve his first degree in Pharmacy and then a PhD. He was the first member of his family to attend University. Julian started his career as a R&D pharmacist at Reckitt Benckiser, and after completing an MBA at Durham University he transferred into marketing roles there before leaving to pursue a career in Management Consulting with Accenture's London

Strategy Practice. After leaving Accenture he has founded and been the director of a number of SME businesses in the pharmacy and digital health technology sector and continues that work now. Julian views Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Primary School as a vital part of the Collingham community and he is passionate about education and its power to facilitate social mobility. He joined the Board of Governors to assist the school in this critically important role.

**Paul Cook – Headteacher**

Hello, I'm Paul Cook, the headteacher at Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings CofE Primary School. As the headteacher, I am automatically a governor by virtue of my office, and I have been in this role since September 2017. I am accountable for the educational performance of the school. I lead on the strategic direction, vision, values and priorities of the school, as well as developing and implementing policies, practises, and procedures. I have been an educational professional for 20 years, working solely in Church of England primary schools.

While becoming a headteacher was my first experience of being a governor, I have since supported a local primary school in restructuring their governing board, where I was the Vice-Chair for a year to help oversee this process. I am also instrumental in the collaboration of local schools through the Wharfe Valley Learning Partnership (WVLP), which enables each school to maintain its unique identity and autonomy while working closely together to benefit our children and young people in Wetherby and the surrounding villages. Additionally, I am the Vice-Chair of the Elmet Partnership of Schools and Services (EPOSS) cluster, a partnership of 22 local schools who share expertise, resources, and external services including such as family support, attendance and counselling.

On a personal note, I am a parent myself to two boys who are now both in high school. I am an avid football fan, supporting Everton, which often leads to some friendly banter with children, staff and parents alike. I spend most of my weekends on grassroots football pitches across Yorkshire, watching my boys play on both Saturdays and Sundays. I have even been roped into a committee role as the Child Welfare Officer for one of these clubs.

**Reverend Carolyn James - Foundation Governor**

As Vicar of the Parish of Collingham with Harewood, I live in the Vicarage in Collingham. I also share responsibilities for elements of the ministry offered in the Parish of Spofforth, Kirk Deighton, Follifoot and Little Ribston. I have been ordained since 1991 and over the years have worked in a variety of settings – in parishes which could be regarded as urban, as suburban and as semi-rural settings, as well as in the educational setting of a University College. One of the constants in all of those places has been my role working in schools, with pupils and students, as well as with the staff and wider community of governors and parents. As a Church of England Priest, I am proud of the commitment which the church has,

for generations, played in the championing and nurturing of children, young people and education through its many church schools and I have always personally found my time spent working in and through the church schools 'on my home patch' to be an area of ministry which is both joyful and rewarding.



Diane Talbot MBE – Vice Chair of Governors, Foundation Governor

I became a Foundation Governor in September 2023 having previously been a co-opted member of the Governing board. I believe that it is important to ensure that children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential emotionally, physically and socially and that early year's education fundamentally enables them to maximize their future development. I am committed to lifelong learning and have a strong belief in the importance of the early years of a child's education being the foundation for their continuing education. I feel that all children should be enabled to reach their true potential and I have a particular interest in learning support, having had experience of this during my own children's education. Prior to my retirement I worked within the NHS in a variety of clinical and management roles in Leicestershire. I relocated to Collingham in 2017.



Claire Davidson – Parent Governor, Safeguarding Link Governor

My name is Claire Davidson. I am currently a parent governor and have 2 daughters: one in year 3 and another who was at the school from reception until she finished year 6 and left to start high school. I work in the NHS as a Consultant Paediatrician and am passionate about children's health and wellbeing - in particular mental health. I am also the governor lead for safeguarding - something which I have had a lot of training and experience in as a result of my job. I was keen to become a governor at the school to give something back after all the years the staff there have worked so hard encouraging, supporting and educating both my children - often going above and beyond to bring out the best in them and help them reach their full potential - both emotionally and academically.



Lindsay Hicks – Co-Opted Governor, Assistant Headteacher & SENCo/Inclusion Leader, Class Teacher

Hi, I'm Lindsay Hicks and I am proud to be one of the Assistant Headteacher at Collingham Lady Elizabeth Hastings' CofE Primary School. In addition to this role, I am the SENCo and Inclusion Lead, as well as one of the Year 6 teachers. Having taught at Collingham for 23 years, I feel very fortunate to be part of such a dedicated and caring school community. I am passionate about SEND and inclusion, and in my role as SENCo I am committed to ensuring that every pupil is supported to achieve their very best by working closely with a wide range of professionals from education and health services, as well as with parents

and carers. Collingham's ethos and vision underpin everything we do and I am proud to contribute to this through my teaching and leadership. I firmly believe that by working together with staff, governors, families and pupils, we can create the best outcomes for our young people, and I am looking forward to working with the Governing Body to continue driving the school forward. On a personal note, I am a mum of two. My son is currently at university studying music, while my daughter is at high school. Outside of school and family life, I enjoy running, and my next challenge will be the London Marathon!



Kevin Johnson – Local Authority Governor

I recently retired, having spent more than 40 years in senior positions in various retail companies. I am delighted to have recently joined Collingham School as a governor. Education of young people has always been a passion. I have seen through my experience as a parent and as a leader of large teams that when young people are provided with opportunities to learn new skills and gain new learning opportunities in a supportive environment, they will grow in confidence and set goals for themselves. This is critically important in their informative years and I strongly believe that a positive primary school experience is a fundamental part of children's development.

School governors have a pivotal role to play in supporting and challenging education professionals to ensure our young people have the best possible environment in which to learn and thrive. In an ever-changing world where schools and colleges are subject to budget challenges, changes in government thinking, social media impacts on children, and parental expectations, it is vital that these challenges are met with well thought through strategies and decisions. I am relishing the opportunity to apply my experience and skills to actively contribute to the successful management of Collingham School. On a personal note, my wife and I live in the local area and have two adult children. We are blessed with two grandchildren (and another one due soon), one of whom attends Collingham School and the other will join reception in a couple of years' time. I enjoy playing golf, painting (watercolour and acrylic), and travel. I'm a Newcastle United supporter, which can be very emotional at times!!