



Governor Biographies

Lisa Seeley : Chair of Governors

I am a mother of 3, grandmother of 6, 2 of whom are under 5, and with over 30 years working with Surrey Children's Services. Watching my children and grandchildren learn through play reminds me of the importance for all children to have access to good quality nursery education. My present role as a Child Protection Chair requires me to safeguard children by identifying the strengths within the family, social network and local community. I believe in adopting this solution focussed approach. As governor I support the continuation of the high quality care each child receives at The Wharf Nursery, at home and in the community.

Tessa Barker: Vice-Chair

I have had the privilege of being the link health visitor for the Wharf Nursery school and Children's Centre for the last thirty years where I was particularly involved in delivering parenting courses. During that time I also spent many years teaching on the Child Care and Education Course at Godalming Sixth Form College.

I am delighted to join the team of governors at The Wharf and hope to bring this experience to my new responsibility for health and safeguarding.

My sons attended this nursery many years ago, so it has always been a very special place for my family. Now retired, I am enjoying having time for hiking, cycling, gardening and catching up with old friends.

Maria Luff: Staff Governor

I am the lead teacher at The Wharf Nursery School. I have been at The Wharf for three years having previously been Early Years Foundation Stage Leader in two primary schools within Surrey. I also have experience of being part of a senior leadership team and working with Children's Centres in supporting nursery children and their families. My particular interest is developing children's characteristics of effective learning and providing opportunities for children to challenge themselves as they move forward in their learning.

I live in Ash where I am a Beaver Scout Leader and member of a local choir. I am also a keen gardener!

Veronica Ellul: Co-opted Governor

I have lived in the local area since 1971 and have worked with children since I left school. One of my college placements was at The Wharf Nursery when it was in the wooden building. My experience has been mainly working with children and young people with autism and I have led several residential departments in SEN schools. At present I am working in a secondary school supporting students experiencing challenges with their behaviours. I have knowledge of safeguarding and have been a Designated Safeguarding Lead in three of the schools I have worked in.

I want to contribute to my local community and becoming a governor enables me to use my experience and knowledge of working with children within my home town. I am passionate about

giving children the best possible experiences and look forward to being able to contribute to supporting the work of The Wharf Nursery and Children's Centre.

Virginia Bawden: Co-opted Governor

I have lived in Godalming for over 30 years and my children were all educated locally. I am now semi-retired and I am delighted to join the team of governors as I am passionate about the difference access to a good nursery can make to children. My background is in Surrey Children's Service as a Social Worker and I have worked in a variety of teams providing support to families in the community. Since 2009 I have worked as a Team Manager and I am also a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainer for the Surrey Safeguarding Board, providing training on child protection and the impact on parenting which results from drug and alcohol misuse.

Katharine Hadley: Parent Governor

My background is commercial, working alongside large corporates and leading key client relationships. As a Director at Deloitte LLP my clients were FTSE 100 board directors and their management teams, supporting them to deliver their business objectives.

I have been a full time mother since 2016, with 2 small children, one of whom has Down's syndrome and so I have a keen and personal interest in SEND.

Both of my children and I have benefitted and shone in the warmth and expertise of the Children's Centre and I am passionate about the vital role which The Wharf Nursery and Children's Centre provide to our community.

This is a great team to join and I look forward to developing my role further.

Rik Skews: Local Authority Governor

My background is in creative and project management, primarily in the video games industry, where I had a successful career over 20 years running some of the biggest global brands. I travelled extensively in this role and worked and lived across Europe, the US and Japan. In 2013 I decided to go freelance and now split my time working as a consultant for up and coming development teams and supporting various charities. Most recently I have been working with a start-up based in Hamburg and also for the National Autistic Society, across residential and day centres, and training and supporting people with autism of all ages.

I am passionate about the local community and also in trying to support children and young adults realise their potential. I live in Godalming and in my spare time play the piano, attend gigs as often as possible, write and walk everywhere - you will probably spot me with my backpack at some point!

Jacky Beale: Co-opted Governor

I am a retired teacher, having taught at a local infant school for 23 years, where amongst other responsibilities, I was Special Needs Co-ordinator. My three daughters attended The Wharf Nursery School in the 1980s and I have always felt that the school provides an excellent pre-school education and is an asset to the local community. I feel privileged to be involved as governor in supporting The Wharf Nursery School to continue its longstanding high quality teaching and facilities. Since retirement I have become involved in voluntary work in various ways. I am a trustee of a small local charity, I run Godaltots baby and toddler group at Godalming United Church, I assist with publicity and exhibitions at Godalming Museum, and I am on the editorial committee of The Bridge magazine in Busbridge. I also enjoy looking after grandchildren, singing in two choirs, gardening, walking and visiting exhibitions.

Ceri Aiken: Parent Governor

I'm a mum to two children, one who is currently happily attending The Wharf Nursery school and the second who is due to start in September. As someone who is at the very beginning of their children's journey with education, I'm keen to be involved in and understand the work that goes on behind the scenes and continue the great work that has gone before.

My professional background is in communications and operations, predominantly in sports and retail working with household brands and I recently set up my own freelance communications consultancy. I have a fairly broad background in communications (having worked in roles covering both external and also internal communications) and now work with businesses to develop and improve their internal communications strategy and shape their employee advocacy. Most recently I've been using social media with businesses to help them develop their employer brand externally and support the development of employees personal brand.