



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.

Maria Luff: Staff Governor

I am the lead teacher at The Wharf Nursery School. I have been at The Wharf since 2014, 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!

Virginia Bawden: Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair and Safeguarding Lead

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 provide to our community.

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

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 Godaltings 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 who have both attended The Wharf Nursery school. 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.

Caitlin McStay: Co-opted Governor

I am a qualified secondary school teacher, specializing in Performing Arts, but have also had much experience teaching in SEN schools. I currently work part time for the National Autistic Society and really enjoy my work.

I have two children, whom I raise alone. My son currently attends The Wharf and loves it. His complex needs are considered every day and it has enabled him to thrive in his emotional, mental and physical progress. My daughter is due to start soon and she can't wait.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the governing team and to help provide the continuation of such excellent care for all the children.