

Mrs Helen O'Neal

Over 25 years of nursing has enabled me to care for a great many people in a variety of settings with vast differences in needs, starting points and potential outcomes. I have spent many years in intensive care where I have also trained and Educated many colleagues in the speciality and equipment. I was responsible for updating and developing policies, carrying out research, managing people, leadership and teaching both theory and practical aspects of intensive care to other care professionals. I have also had several nursing articles and chapters in books published and presented at conferences.

Since having our two children, investing time in them became my husband's and my priority, so I chose to nurse less frequently. I always felt I wanted to support their school in some way so began 6 years ago volunteering on a weekly basis within classrooms and on school trips which i still do. I felt many of my skills were transferable to the school settings so became a parent governor over 4 years ago. In this time, I have been chair of the standards committee and recently became co-chair of the Governing body. In the capacity of parent governor, I also sit on the overview and scrutiny committee for children's services at Bedford Borough Council. As with any occupation there are always challenges but I still enjoy helping make a difference with the family of Wootton Lower School.

Cllr. John. Wheeler

After a career in Advertising I moved to Wootton some twenty years ago and continued doing consultancy work in Advertising and the Brewing Industry. I have always been interested in the community and in 2006 joined the Parish Council which I am still a member and was Chairman for three years and am currently vice chair. I joined Wootton Lower School Governors some five years ago where I am currently the Co-chair of Governors and joined the Wootton Advisory Board of the Wootton Academy Trust two years ago and recently became vice chair of the new Governing Body. I am currently the Ward Councillor for Wootton and sit on the Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee for children services, Negotiating Committee for Primary & Secondary Education and Schools Forum. I am still very much involved in the community and now involve both School's in some of the village activities.

James Turner

I serve as Vice-Chair, ICT link governor and a member of Resources and School extension committees. I joined the Governing body in Jan 2013 to get involved in the local community & make a difference. I have three teenagers - our younger daughter spent 2 happy and formative years at Wootton Lower and is soon heading to Wootton Upper.

Having started my working life in corporate banking, I branched out into charitable work. My work experience encompasses numerous different businesses, humanitarian relief and international development aid. Relevant skills picked up along the way include budgeting, financial analysis, contract negotiation, logistics, procurement people management. I have a degree in Industrial Economics and also hold an MBA.

After spending 16 years living and working in Uganda, East Africa, I moved my family to the UK, choosing to settle in Wootton. This decision was not coincidental - close to MK & Bedford, pleasant village environment, quality schools... I am now Director at a local charity which helps prevent and address the effects of complex homelessness amongst 16-64 year olds across Bedfordshire.

Paul Woodman

I am a community governor appointed in June 2015 and I am currently chair of the Resources Committee and link governor for numeracy and premises. I am a barrister by training but have mostly worked as an in house lawyer, initially for 10 years as a government lawyer and for the last 15 years in industry, for companies serving the public sector. I currently work for a large defence manufacturer based in Ampthill. I am new to Wootton having lived here only since 2014 but I have a child in each of the two school sites and an interest in supporting education; I was a governor of another school several years ago. My role as a lawyer in industry provides me with general business and regulatory experience, such as an understanding of ESH, HR, data protection etc. that is transferable to any environment including the school setting. I have a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Hull and a Masters of Laws (Commercial Law) from the University of Bristol.

Kerrie Gobindram

I have taught in a variety of settings in during my 16 year teaching career. Initially a peripatetic music teacher, I then taught in a special school and am now based in a diverse mainstream primary school. My role as inclusion manager encompasses the post of SENCo, deputy safeguarding lead, overseeing provision for pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) and those considered more able and talented. I support behaviour, wellbeing and social emotional needs, leading a team of support staff and intervention teachers. I am also music co-ordinator and support the monitoring of pupil premium provision. I am currently completing a Masters degree in education and leadership.

I chose to become governor at Wootton Lower School in order to support a school who has given my children some fantastic experiences and opportunities during their early years in education. I endeavour to ensure that the strategic direction of the school is always in the best interest of every child's wellbeing and development. I am chair of the standards committee and link governor for pupil premium and more able and talented.

Chris Tavener

I have been Head Teacher of Wootton Lower School for the last 6 years. I was previously Deputy Head Teacher at Wilstead Lower School and was a class teacher at Langford Lower School. In every school I have strived to develop the educational environment and make a difference. I have led many aspects of the curriculum, but particularly enjoyed leading maths, PE and ICT. Before working at Wootton Lower School I was a governor of 2 different schools and was Chair of Finance at my son's lower school. For 10 years prior to becoming a teacher I used to work in the City for several different banks in their corporate finance and audit functions.

Lucas Durant

I am currently the Assistant Curate at St. Mary's Church in Wootton. Prior to being ordained, I worked as a children's minister for a parish church in North Kensington before training at a theological college in Oxford. I am currently the safeguarding link governor and serve on the standards sub-committee.

David Goodson

I have been a governor at Wootton Lower School since November 2015 and I am a link governor for EYFS. I am a Human Resources professional specialising in learning, talent management and organisational development. My career has included senior HR leadership roles in retail, hospitality and finance services and I now have my own interim HR management and consultancy business. I am a Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel & Development and have a Masters in Business Administration from Oxford Brookes University.

I have lived in Wootton since 1999 at which time my children attended Wootton Lower School and I was very involved in the PTFA. My wife and I are also Lay Pastoral Leaders of Wootton New Life Methodist Church.

Sarah Bartishel

I have been part of the village community all my life, attending Wootton Lower School! I now have 2 daughters at the school, at both Harris Way and Bedford Road. After leaving University I completed my PGCE, and have been a teacher for the past 14 years. 12 years were spent at an outstanding school, and as part of the Senior Leadership Team. I have continued to be part of the SLT in my current work place. I also work with a local teaching School to facilitate the professional development of those within the education system, alongside working with student teachers. I spent a year on secondment working with the then County Council establishing the Extended Services and Every Child Matters agenda. I have previously served four years as a staff governor, and as Committee member for the local preschool. I serve on the Standards Committee, and am link governor for Literacy and PE.

Ruth Rowse

For the last 14 years, I have been a qualified Therapeutic Radiographer, my main role is to provide Radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients. It is because of this role that I have strong communication skills, providing care, advice, and instruction to members of the public from all backgrounds, from the very young to very old, in sometimes very sensitive situations.

Alongside my role as a Radiographer I am also a senior lecturer in Oncology and Radiotherapy at the university of Hertfordshire. I teach at both undergraduate degree and masters levels. Through the university, I have undertaken education related courses which although aimed at higher education teaching, can easily be applied to school aged children. The courses have enabled me to understand the psychology behind learning, and the need to ensure education is inclusive of everyone.

It is for this reason that I chose to become a parent governor. I am currently a member of the full board, standards subcommittee, and the link curriculum governor. .

As Parent governor, I aim to ensure that the school is challenged when necessary and represent parents on the governing body to ensure the children have a happy, creative, and positive and rewarding learning experience at Wootton Lower School, so that they can achieve their full potential.

Leanne Grove

I have been a qualified teacher since 2001 and started my teaching career at Olney Middle School. In 2005 I had an amazing opportunity to go and work in a brand new school, St. Bernadette's Primary School in Milton Keynes. Whilst there I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to be Key Stage Two Leader, Maths coordinator, SENCo and the Leader of Learning for English (not all at the same time!). The highlight of my time there was being graded as Outstanding by Ofsted in every area.

During my time at St. Bernadette's I got married, had two children and moved to Wootton. My daughter has attended Wootton Lower School since Reception and my son is due to start at the school in September. When the opportunity arose for a second Deputy Head due to the expansion of the school I applied and was thrilled to be appointed. I have a passion for ensuring the best for every child in our school and feel privileged to be part of the staff at Wootton Lower School.

I am currently Head of School at Bedford Road and oversee provision for vulnerable pupils and the development of teaching and learning within the school. I am a governor on both the Standards, Resources and New extension Committee.

Tony Ireland

I have over 33 years' experience in Local Government and I am currently responsible for a range of services in Public Protection. My current role as Service Manager covers a range of services including Civil Contingencies, Registrars, Coroner, Licensing, CCTV and Parking Services. I have experience in Child Protection, Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation, Counter Terrorism and I work with stakeholders including Councillors, MPs, Residents, and Businesses through multi-agency groups such as Safety Advisory Group, and the Community Cohesion Committee Planning Group. I therefore bring my skills of strategic assessment and review to a host of difference regimes dependent on the needs of the Board.

I also have a broad experience in a number of voluntary roles, having successfully project managed several events and fundraisers for charities and charitable concerns. I was also a local volunteer fire fighter for over three years.

Diane Collier

I began my working life in the finance department for British Telecom until I took a career break to have 3 children. During this period I did voluntary work before deciding on a change of career which led me to a 4 year full-time course at De Montfort University as a mature student where I gained a BEd (Hons). I began my teaching career at Wootton Lower School in 1999, and have served as a Staff governor for 10 years.

Wendy Burnett

I have been teaching since 2000 after completing a four year BA with Qualified Teaching Status degree at The University of Warwick. My first teaching job was at a Buckinghamshire primary school where I taught year 3 and year 6 and had responsibility for PE. In 2004 I joined Wootton Lower School as a class teacher and in 2005 I was promoted to Key Stage 2 Leader. I then took on the Assistant Headteacher role before being promoted to Deputy Headteacher. In 2011 I became the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and in 2012 gained the National Award for SENCO. Since being at Wootton Lower School, I have witnessed the school evolve into a thriving split site school. I am currently SENCO and Head of School of our Harris Way site. I have been a Governor for 8 years and am part of the Standards and Resources Committees.