

Meet the Carterton Primary School Local Governing Body



Mr N McWilliams - Chair of Governors

Role(s): GDPR Link Governor

Niall was formally the executive headteacher at both the Oxford Academy and the neighbouring primary school, John Henry Newman Academy. Over the ten years Niall was at the Oxford Academy he led the school from being in the bottom five per cent of schools [for progress] and to being in the top 15 per cent - a phenomenal educational achievement.

Prior to his role as executive headteacher, Niall was headteacher at Carterton Community College, where during his leadership he developed the schools post-16 offering. Niall was head at Carterton Community College for a number of years and knows the community and local area well.

Niall has also worked as a support and challenge partner for River Learning Trust. Working with staff at both a school and Trust level to drive improved educational outcomes.

He has spent 35 years in education and experienced numerous Ofsted inspections during his career.

From 2018 until this summer Niall has worked at Oxford United football club as their Chief Strategic Officer. During this appointment he has overseen the acquisition of a permanent training group, championed the development of the women's and academy programme, and most recently led the planning application for the team's new stadium.

Niall has also served on the Local Governing Body of local schools, including most recently St Frideswides CofE Primary School, in Oxford.



Mrs E Ricks-Neal - Vice Chair

Role(s): Learning and Teaching (including Attendance) Lead Governor

I am married and I live in Cumnor village, Oxford. I am currently part-time Director of the Berkshire Leadership Development Partnership, having recently retired from a Local Authority position of Principal Adviser for School Improvement and Governance. I have spent a lifetime in education, starting out as a secondary English teacher, moving on to school senior leadership positions and then to Local Authority Advisory roles. I have been a County Adviser for English, Ofsted Inspector, Senior Regional Adviser when working with the National Strategies and I am co-author of the National Association of Able Children in Education "Challenge Award" quality mark for schools. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with school leaders across England, Wales and internationally. I am passionate about working with schools to provide no less than an outstanding education for all its pupils, irrespective of its context. I am delighted to have joined CPS as the Local Authority Governor and I hope I can help and support the school on the journey to achieve its ambitious goals.

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Márcia Costa (maternity leave)

Role(s): Safeguarding Link Governor

I am a Research Manager at Deloitte and before that I was the Senior Assistant Editor at the Lancet. I believe deeply that education is a human right and a fundamental pillar for social mobility and to decrease inequalities, having myself been an example of this (my parents never finished high school). I also believe that, despite the central role that the state/government should have in providing free education, it is for the school and the surrounding community to best know the local environment and how to support their students. Unfortunately, given that funding is not infinite and regional variations can be stark, having a clear understanding of the local reality and where to invest resources can be as efficient. I very much wanted to help a local school with this so that we can work towards all children/teenagers having equitable opportunities in life.



Heidi Emberton – parent governor

Role(s): Safeguarding Link Governor

Canadian born with British dual citizenship I have lived in England for 15 years. I graduated from college with a 3-year Advanced Diploma in Massage Therapy and attended 11 different schools in both countries. We are now a Military family stationed at Brize Norton with 2 boys at CPS. I have been a parent of CPS since September 2020, during which time I served 2 years as a class representative for the parent council. I have been a Friends of CPS volunteer helping raise funds for the school through events since its launch in 2022. I am currently a reading volunteer in LKS2 for a second academic year. Education is a cornerstone of childhood development and I love watching young minds blossom as they learn to read and explore the world around them. If I'm not reading my own book, you will find me outside with my boys exploring the amazing world around us. I look forward to the opportunity as a parent governor to work with the team to keep education standards that everyone at CPS can be proud of.



Elizabeth Norman – parent governor

Role(s): SEND Link Governor

Elizabeth's background is in Court of Protection, working with clients who have sustained brain injuries. This has equipped Elizabeth with a deep understanding of the requirement for children to have the best education and support.

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Neil Carveth – Trust-appointed governor

Role(s): Health and Safety Link Governor

Neil has over 20 year experience working in Health and Safety, conducting inspections and audits and identifying recommendations. Neil sits on the LGBs Health and Safety Committee, working with school and Trust leads to ensure the site remains safe and provides a nurturing educational environment.



Zoe Banfield – Trust-appointed Governor

Role(s): Pupil Premium Link Governor

Zoe has worked in primary education for nearly 20 years including as a class teacher, assistant headteacher and currently in school improvement for another multi-academy trust. Zoe has a strong background in curriculum development and professional development, having supported early career teachers. Zoe is local to West Oxfordshire and keen to become a governor as a meaningful way to use her experience to benefit the wider school community and make a difference to the lives for children – ensuring every child achieves throughout their school journey.



Simona Southouse – Staff Governor

Simona is the one of the two staff governors appointed to the local governing body and is an upper Key Stage 2 teacher at the school



Roxanne Fenton – Staff Governor

Roxanne has been appointed to the local governing body as a staff governor. Roxanne is the School Administrator.