



Astbury St Mary's Primary School

Astbury St Mary's Governing Board 2018/19

From the National Governance Association website:

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of the governing board is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. Time and time again Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - including by the governing board.

What do governors do?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Governors appoint the head teacher and deputy headteacher. In some schools the site is owned by the governing board. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of a governing board, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing board; decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing board.

The role of the governing board is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

set the aims and objectives for the school

set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives

set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives

monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives

be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

The headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.

Astbury Governing Board

Associate Governor

NONE

Local Authority Governor

VACANCY

Co-opted Governor

KATH MOORE (CHAIR)

Parent Governors

CORINNE ASTINS-
WARD

CLAIRE HOCKNELL

Foundation Governors

MAURA AMIES

JOHN CARTER

REV DR JEFF CUTTELL

MARGARET SANDERS

DR CHRIS TICKNER

LIZ WARDLAW

VACANCY

VACANCY

Staff Governors

PIP WORSWICK

REBECCA HODDER

Astbury St Mary's Governor Profiles 2018/19

Maura Amies, Foundation Governor

I am in my third year of my term as a foundation governor at Astbury St Mary's.

I am chair of the Admissions committee and a member of the following committees

- Teaching & Learning,
- Resources
- Admissions

I also share the role of Health and Safety governor.

Under which we support of the Headteacher to ensure that the school has procedures for meeting all relevant health and safety legislation, including undertaking risk assessments (statutory responsibility according to OFSTED). It also involves ensuring that the premises and school environment is safe and fit for purpose.

Apart from the induction courses I have completed governor training courses in 'The Governors' Role in Setting Vision Ethos and Strategic Direction' and 'Holding Your School to Account: Challenge and Support in Practice.'

I have an honours degree in Fine Art from Reading University. After a short period working for an advertising and marketing agency I went back Reading University, to the University College of Estate Management to gain my surveying qualifications.

I've spent most of my working life at a firm of commercial surveyors in Macclesfield, specialising in business rates appeals, rent reviews and lease renewals. I am also a member of the Government's Rating Agents forum who meet with the Valuation Office and Department of Communities and Local Government to discuss and advise on changes to the businesses rates system in England.

I have two children who both attend and Astbury St Mary's. Both are very happy and settled at the school.

Corinne Astins-Ward, Parent Governor

I have lived locally in Astbury for over 20 years. Three generations of my husband's family have attended Astbury Primary School so when my husband and I had our children we decided we would follow tradition and they would go to Astbury School.

I come from a Church of England background, me and my 3 sisters attended St Mary's Church in Sandbach where we were Christened and my parents were on the PCC.

My Educational background led me firstly in an Arts direction where I got my Foundation Course in Art. I studied Jewellery, Silversmithing, Life Drawing and Sculpture. From here I went on to gain a HND in Craft Design before changing course to work at the Cheshire Building Society on 'Internal Audit' (Information, Risk & Security) where I gained my Business Management qualification at Manchester Met University whilst working there. From there I went onto work at Barclays Radbroke Hall. Working in Software Distribution this taught me two things: the importance of working as part of a team and the need for confidentiality.

Since having my 3 children I have primarily been a full time mum helping with some administrative jobs on the Farm where we live and carrying on with my Art/paintings. My Husband and I have diversified and setup 3 holiday cottages which I now manage alongside his Farming, this involved some aspects of project management, design and marketing, Financial Planning, Overseeing problems which are all helpful to being on the Governing body.

I have always had an interest in Education, my parents were both in education, my mother a secondary school English teacher and my father an Art teacher before going onto Lecture at Manchester Met, my God Father was a Headmaster in London and they were all governors for over 30 years, so you could say my chances of shying away from this was slim!

I have been a parent governor for over 2 years now and am on the Teaching & Learning Committee and Resources Committee. I also have a special responsibility for SEND, Pupil Discipline and Staff Appeals.

To help me gain a greater understanding in these roles I have completed the following courses: Governor Induction, Exclusions Training, Safer Recruitment, Safeguarding, The Governors Role in Setting Vision and Ethos, SEN Inclusion, Making the most of Governor Visits to School, Holding the School to Account, Understanding and using School Data.

I have an interest in helping to move the school forward not just for my own children but for all the children at Astbury School, it is important to me that they are in a happy and secure Christian environment and that they have every opportunity offered to them to take them through to secondary school, so Vision and Ethos are crucial to steer them in the right direction and is something we as governors are very passionate about.

Extra-curricular activities outside of the core subjects are equally important, Drama, Music and Art are important for emotional intelligence and can easily be overlooked. Also Sport in all its forms are good for health, mental wellbeing and confident.

John Carter, Foundation Governor

Commenced my education at St. Mary's C of E School, Astbury in the Spring of 1952. Passed the Entrance Scholarship for King's School, Macclesfield, Junior Section and subsequently the 11+ to the Senior School. Studied Architecture and Environmental Design at, what is now, Manchester School of Architecture from 1966 to 1972, awarded 1st Class Honours with Distinction and admission to the UK Register of Architects.

Elected to the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1974 and also became a Chartered Member of the RICS. Partner and Principal in private Practice specialising and accredited in historic buildings/Ecclesiastical Conservation and Development of Church Buildings - now in the process of retiring.

Member of St. Mary's Church PCC and Secretary for 5 years in the 1980's. Elected Chair of Astbury & Moreton Parish Council for the past 6 years and Member of St. Mary's Church Choir over the last 34 years. For the past 15 years a serving Architect Member of the Diocese of Chester Advisory Committee.

I have lived in the Village for 46 years with all my 3 children attending St. Mary's before secondary and tertiary education to Degree Level, and now have 2 grandchildren at the school.

Heritage and its positive contribution to society along with maintaining and promoting a sustainable environment and ecology rooted in a Christian ethos are my principal interests.

Revd Dr Jeff Cuttell, Parish Rector

I have been involved hands-on in primary education for 30 years. Here at Astbury it continues to be a great joy and privilege to be so actively included in this incredibly important stage in our families' lives. I did not have the chance to attend a church school myself, but my own primary school had a Christian head teacher - their influence stayed with me all my life. We cannot underestimate the importance of the other grown-ups who are part of our children's lives! I am married to Liz who is a GP in Sandbach. Our eldest daughter lectures in computer gaming at Warwick University - I tell the children she gets paid for playing on her Nintendo! Our youngest daughter is due to graduate next year from her doctoral studies in Theoretical Physics. Rather confusingly this will mean that all the family (apart from our two dogs) will then answer to Dr Cuttell as my own doctorate is in Nuclear Physics. My contributions to school worship celebrate the stories of God and his people... they also shamelessly utilise my background in the sciences - in the last twelve months this has involved explosions, a vortex cannon and a smoke machine.

Claire Hocknell, Parent Governor

This is my second as Parent Governor at Astbury, my daughter has started in Class Moses this September. I am a member of both main sub committees this year, the Teaching and Learning (of which I have stepped up as vicechair) and the Resources committee. I also have special responsibility for monitoring Safeguarding and chairing the committee that supports this process. I would also be called upon to sit at the Pay Appeals or Complaints committees if the need arises.

My education includes a HND in Sport and Leisure Management and work history includes experience within the IT industry and more recently Policing. The way in which I expect my skills to contribute the most is in the collection, interpretation and analysis of complex data sets which has been my day job for 7 years. I am used to being relied upon to make recommendations for further

development and allocation of resources from a tactical perspective; ensuring SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) objectives are set and maintained. This is why I have also nuzzled forward this year, to be part of the Raising Attainment Group which is responsible for rigorous target setting for the school in its journey out special measures.

I am excited at the prospect of my daughter's progress through the school this year and that of all the other children. The school will no doubt build on the foundations of the progressive work that has been undertaken this last year, and I welcome the new staff and new governors who have joined our Astbury family this new school year and wish them all the success and fulfilment this academic year.

Kath Moore, Co-opted Governor (Chair of Governors)

I completed a BA Hons degree in Accounting and Finance at Manchester Metropolitan University and then started work at a local Building Society. I worked in the Mortgage department, Treasury and then the IT department. Training initially as a COBOL programmer working on the Y2K development and then re-training in Visual Basic, SQL, Business Objects and SSIS. I completed 20 years of service at the Building Society, working in the IT department for 17 years.

Due to the financial crash in 2008 it became clear that the future of the Building Society was uncertain. I decided to re-train in garden design and horticulture. When the Society closed in 2014 and I was redundant I started my own garden design and garden maintenance business.

I became a parent governor in 2008 and in more recent years became vice chair and now chair of governors.

I am currently chair of the Resources committee and share the role of Safeguarding governor. I have previously been the chair of the Achievement, Admissions and Behaviour & Safety committees. I am also a member of the Teaching and Learning committee and Raising Attainment Group (RAG) and the RE and Ethos committee and am chair of the Head's Performance Management committee and various smaller pay, complaints, exclusion and grievance committees.

I have been on the panel for two headship recruitments, taken part in staff interviews, been interviewed by OFSTED twice and once for a SIAMS inspection. I regularly attend governor training courses to keep my knowledge up-to-date.

I also help to run the school's Eco club and love to help the children create exciting outdoor spaces and learn about the natural world.

Margaret Sanders, Foundation Governor

I moved to Congleton with my family in 2002 and my two youngest children attended Astbury St Mary's from Reception until they progressed to High School. They were given an excellent foundation for learning that has enabled them to become well-balanced and rounded young adults and I felt that I wanted to give something back to the school to reflect my genuine appreciation for the role they have played. This is my first term as a Foundation Governor and my responsibilities now include being part of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Raising Attainment Group (RAG), Staff Discipline, SEND, Cared for Children and RE and Ethos.

I am a committed Christian and regularly attend New Life Church. I have been the Manager of New Life Nursery for the past 10 years and am also the; Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-

ordinator (SENDCO), Designated Person for Cared for Children, and Safeguarding of Children Co-ordinator (SOCCO) which enables me to keep my knowledge and skills current however; I am also beginning training specifically for my new role as Foundation Governor and look forward to learning new skills.

I also hold the position of Safeguarding Lead for New Life Church and have been a Cheshire East Foster Carer for the last 11 years. We currently look after and advocate for 2 boys who are 'long term' placements. I have a passion to see all children, whatever their background or ability, achieve their full potential and develop lifelong learning skills.

I hold a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies and Early years Professional Status which is the Early Years equivalent to Qualified Teacher Status.

Dr Chris Tickner, Foundation Governor (Vice Chair)

Originally from the North East I moved to Cheshire over 12 years ago and settled in Congleton 10 years ago. When my daughter started school 6 years ago I decided to put myself forward as a School governor in order to support the school on its onward journey. My daughter (currently in year 5) loves Astbury School and I am (we as a family are) actively involved with the life of the School and church. I have been a foundation governor now for 6 years (appointed by Astbury church council) and during my time in this position I have held several positions/ responsibilities. My primary role is as the vice chair of governors (I am currently in my second term of office). I am the chair of the Teaching and Learning committee and a member of the raising attainment group (RAG). These two committees review pupil progress and attainment; providing challenge and support to the school to ensure we get the best possible outcome for the children.

I am a member of Head Teacher Performance Management committee and have sat on other committees such as RE and Ethos, Behaviour and Safety along with being chair of several appeals committees. As a qualified health and safety professional I have joint responsibility for health and safety in the school and I have recently been involved in the school H&S audit. I am also the governor with responsibility for training and carry out regular skills audits and send out governor training course schedules for Cheshire East and the Dioceses. During my time as a governor I have been involved in several school interview processes and helped appoint teaching and teaching assistant staff I have also been involved in the two most recent OFSTED inspection programs. With a back ground in Science and as a STEM ambassador (Science, technology engineering and maths) I am passionate about STEM in schools and like to see children excel and have enthusiasm for all subjects taught in school; setting the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Elizabeth Wardlaw. Foundation Governor.

I am a resident of Astbury, I am married and have two adult children. Having recently retired after 35 years working in the NHS I am delighted to have been offered the opportunity to become a governor at Astbury School. For the last 25 years I have worked in general practice in Congleton, beginning as a practice nurse and latterly as a Nurse Practitioner. I was elected to Cheshire East Council in 2015 as councillor for Odd Rode and currently I am a cabinet member with responsibility for health. This is my first appointment as a governor and I have been appointed to the RE and Ethos committee, Pupil Appeals Committee and the Staff Grievance Committee. I look forward to being a useful member of Astbury school life.

Pip Worswick, Head teacher

I am the head teacher of Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School. I am a committed Christian and am passionate about leading this church school on its journey of academic and spiritual development.

I started teaching at Astbury in January 1998. I taught in years one and two and years three and four for twelve years working in senior leadership as acting deputy, acting head and as assistant headteacher.

In 2007 I completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and in 2009 left Astbury to be the head teacher of Wincle C of E Primary School. Whilst at Wincle, I completed the New Visions programme for early headship and the National Award for SEN Coordination. I was successful in my application to return to Astbury as head teacher in January 2016.

I have many years' experience as a governor. Historically, I was the staff governor and led many aspects of school improvement. Now, here as head teacher, I sit on each committee working alongside governors to strategically plan, analyse and review school progress and sustainability of this special church school.