

# Bowesfield Primary School

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Your Guide to the School  
Governing Board



## Who we are ...

Bowesfield Primary School Governing Board			
<p><b>Laura Birkett</b> Head Teacher and Staff Governor</p> <p><b>Staff Representative</b> Melanie Nicholson</p>	<p><b>Janet Marriott</b> Co-opted Governor and Chair of Governing Board</p> <p><b>Diane Grosvenor</b> Co-opted Governor, Vice-Chair of Governing Board and Chair of the School Improvement Committee</p> <p><b>Mike Davison</b> Co-opted Governor and Chair of Resources Committee</p> <p><b>Hayley Pearson</b> Co-opted Governor</p>	<p><b>Louise Baldock</b> Local Authority Governor</p> <p><b>Tunde David Animashaun</b> Parent Governor</p> <p><b>Shakeel Noor</b> Parent Governor</p> <p><b>Clif Bingham</b> Co-opted Governor</p>	<p><b>Sophie Hewitson</b> Clerk to the Governing Board</p>



**Laura**

I am responsible for the strategic leadership of the school as well as the day-to-day management of the children, the staff, and the school premises. As Head Teacher my role on the Governing Board is to ensure that information on varying aspects of school life is reported to Governors so that our school can be monitored against its overall aim to provide a high level of education for all our children in a safe and secure environment.



**Melanie**

I am currently a Year 1/2 teacher and Geography subject lead. My role on the Governing Board adds the staff representative voice and provides a vital communication link between school, governors, and the community. Alongside my teaching role, I am a member of the school's Health and Wellbeing Working Group and I also have an active role on the Friends of Bowesfield Committee providing activities for the children and raising funds for the children in school.



**Janet**

I was a service child and am now a retired army wife and mother with two grown up daughters. I attended a variety of schools to include army, maintained and independent whilst my family was posted to different countries around the world. I was Early Years Manager within Stockton Borough Council for 21 years. On finishing that position, I wanted to use some of the knowledge and skills I had learned and become a governor for Bowesfield. I have the position of Chair of Governors and I also act as Safeguarding and Early Years link governor.



**Diane**

I have worked within the public sector for most of my career and predominantly I have been in roles that have been centred within a learning and teaching environment. In my role as Senior HR Officer at Teesside University I had a remit for enhancing workplace engagement and worked across the organisation to manage and monitor the application of the Investors in People (IiP) standard to review, assess and further develop the employee experience. The warm welcome I received when I visited the school was a big influence on my decision to become a Bowesfield School Governor. I hold the position of Vice-Chair of Governors; Chair of the School Improvement Committee and I also act as SEND and Key Stage 2 link governor.



**Mike**

I am an experienced school governor who taught in the Stockton area for many years. My particular interest is in the school finances and pupil progress. I am applying this interest to take the lead in chairing the School Resources Committee and I also act as Pupil Premium and Key Stage 1 Link Governor.



**Louise**

I am a local resident and former councillor in the community where the school is situated. I am passionate about our area and as a governor I am keen to play a role in ensuring that our children have the best possible education in the best possible school. I act as the link governor for Equality and Diversity and support the school's marketing and PR.



**Hayley**

I am a civil servant in the Department for Education (DfE) where I have worked since 2018. I am currently part of a policy team working on teacher development programmes. Prior to joining the DfE, I was a secondary school teacher and while teaching, I also completed an MA Education. I have a strong interest and experience in educational policy, delivery, and research. I hope to put this experience to use during my time as a governor.



**Tunde**

I have three children at Bowesfield school who encouraged me to become a parent governor. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the governing board and contribute to ensuring quality education and safe learning for all pupils at our school. I support the school's parent and community liaison.



**Shakeel**

As a former pupil of Bowesfield Primary School, I have fond memories of my time spent in school from Early Years through to Year 6. I am now proud to say that my children are following in my footsteps, and I can also give something back to the school by taking on the role of parent governor.

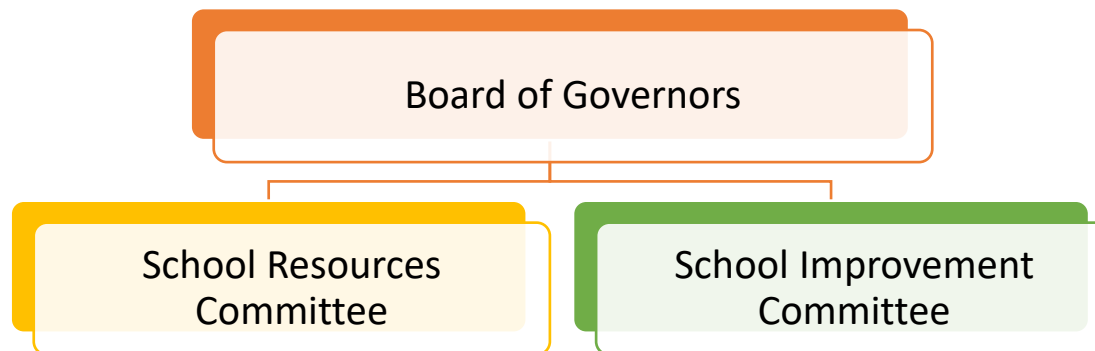


Clif

My career in teaching and learning spans over 40 years. I have worked within the education sector as a researcher, teacher, and specialist advisor. Whilst working alongside the Local Authority I have had responsibility for the development of teacher training programmes for Primary and Secondary teachers in Stockton. My passion lies within teaching and the development of partnerships with schools. As well as being a member of the Governing Board, I dedicate some of my spare time to supporting the school as a volunteer where I get the opportunity to engage and support the children in lessons.

## What we do ...

We meet collectively at various times within the course of the school year over the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. We have three main committees that monitor and review the performance and progress of the school.



During the meetings we consider matters that relate to the operation of the school such as reviewing the school budget; understanding about the school curriculum, and how this is taught; finding out about how the children are progressing with their learning; and monitoring the effectiveness of school policies and processes.

Minutes of the Governing Board meetings, School Resources and School Improvement Committees provide a detailed account of matters relating to school budget's, teaching, and learning, children's development, and school policies and procedures. A central record of the minutes is kept by the Clerk of Governors.

Collectively and / or on an individual basis we visit the school each term to engage in activities that support how we build up our knowledge and understanding of the school. Visits can range from learning walks to link governor monitoring. Reporting proformas are used to capture evidence of where governors engage within the school community, undertake training, or enhance the development of the collective governing board.

We may also be asked to participate in additional school or local authority processes such as complaints, disciplinary matters, or staff appointments.

## How to become a governor ...

We welcome interest from prospective governors and all applications will be considered against the skills and attributes required by the Governing Board.

The school will seek nominations from parents. An election will take place if more nominations are received than vacancies. The school will request pen portraits from each of the candidates to support the election process. Nominations for staff governors are also sought by the school and will follow the same process should an election be required. Please speak to the Headteacher for further details or to register your interest in joining the Governing Board.

For all other appointments we would ask that candidates use the application process administered by the Local Authority.

[Apply to be a school governor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)

Questions about the application process can be directed to the Clerk to the Governing Board: [sophie.hewitson@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.hewitson@stockton.gov.uk)

The Clerk to the Board will liaise with the Chair of Governors and bring forward suitable candidates for interview and selection.

Any questions in relation to the content of this guide can be directed to the Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors, who will be happy to provide further details on behalf of the Board of Governors and the School.

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The details in this guide are correct at the time of publication.