



Wentworth Governors

Pen Portraits

Sophie Ainscough

Staff Governor

I have been a teacher at Wentworth Primary School for over 10 years. During that time, I have led RE, Collective Worship, PE and, most recently, PSHE. Part of my role involves working with the School Council to suggest improvements and plan whole school events. I am also the senior lead for our Young Carers group.

I have a passion for reading and writing especially. For the past 10 years, I have been a teacher judge for the radio 2,500 words story writing competition. I regularly write reviews for Just Imagine. I have also completed an internship shadowing a leading literacy consultant. I am an avid reader and, as a teacher, I aim to inspire a love of reading for pleasure within my classes.

Dawn Dack

Headteacher

I have been a Headteacher for 20 years in a variety of Essex and Southend Primary Schools and taught for many more years across all ages. I am in my fifth year of headship at Wentworth Primary School. My children attended the school, and I was a parent governor for 4 years: A post I found very rewarding in helping Wentworth to become the excellent school it is.

I have also worked for Essex Local Authority supporting failing schools and preparing for inspection. In the past, I was a trained Ofsted Inspector and school adviser. These skills I can use within Wentworth to ensure the education that pupils receive is the very best it can be.

Russell Dawes

Local Authority Governor

I have been a governor for over twelve years, and I thoroughly enjoy supporting the school with my fellow governors and providing a link between the School and Maldon District Council.

I am a communications professional and have worked in this field within Local Government for 39 years. My current role I have held for 27 years after joining on a two-year fixed-term contract!

I am a Freeman of the City of London and a member of the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers where I am a trustee and a member of the Court of Assistants and their charity committee. I am also a passionate supporter of Farleigh Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support, and several local charities.

I am committed to seeing the school maintain its reputation for providing excellence in all areas. I am a member of the Finance and Premises Committee, and I am delighted to be the Young Carers Governor.

Stuart Emerson – *Vice Chair of the Wentworth Governing Body*

Co-opted Governor

I have been a governor at Wentworth since 2010 and currently serve as the vice chair and safeguarding governor. I am a former pupil of Wentworth myself and have had both of my children attend the school.

For the previous 15 years, I have held senior leadership roles within the independent healthcare sector and bring a number of skills that come from leading and managing a private hospital to the school. As well as supporting the school governing body, I also volunteer at two local football clubs with coaching and as a senior part of their committees.

Martin Harvey

Co-opted Governor

I was born in Heybridge but have lived in Maldon for the majority of my life. I'm married with two adult daughters and my wife and daughters are ex pupils of Wentworth School. All my working life has been involved in manufacturing and service sectors in procurement, materials and production control including the aerospace industry and, for the last 27 years as a buyer, for York/Johnson Controls in the air conditioning/refrigeration global industry.

Currently, I am a Maldon Town Councillor - sitting on the Environment Committee, Chairman of Planning Committee - and member of many local clubs/organisations, which includes being a Trustee to two local charities.

Neil Hoskins – *Chair of Finance and Premises Committee*

Co-opted Governor

I have been a governor for the last ten years, initially as a parent governor and then as a co-opted governor and as Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee for the last five years.

I am a chartered civil engineer with over thirty years' experience in delivering major infrastructure projects in the south and south east. My current role is as the head of service for a nearby local authority.

My role in the school centres on ensuring the children and staff have the highest quality facilities that are possible within the budgetary constraints.

Wendy Johnson – *Chair of Pupils, Performance and Personnel Committee*

Co-opted Governor

Having attended Wentworth myself, a very long time ago, I became a parent governor when my son joined the school and am now a community governor.

I have been a teacher for over thirty years and currently work at Chelmsford College. I have a wide range of knowledge and experience in education and training and am committed to ensuring that all children have access to a wide and enriching curriculum.

Iain Marshall

Parent Governor

I have a child in KS2 at Wentworth Primary School and my older child also attended the school. I have served as a parent governor for the past 4 years. I have found this opportunity to be a very rewarding experience.

As a parent, it has been a valuable insight to be able to support the school in ensuring it continues to offer the best education for children.

I have over 25 years of HR experience in areas including pay, reward, employee relations, organisational development, analytics and data. I believe these skills are integral to support the wider scope of the school community.

Geoff Skewes – *Chair of the Wentworth Governing Body*

Co-opted Governor

I have been a governor at Wentworth for over 20 years.

I have worked in the education sector since 1973, initially as a teacher of economics and latterly running my own educational consultancy specialising in Performance Management, Funding, Strategic Planning and Policy. I bring a range of skills and have experience in working with a wide range of schools, from Primary through to Higher

Education. I have trained as an Ofsted Inspector and have been a National Leader for Governance.

Catherine Smith

Co-opted Governor

After a career in teaching, I retired from my post as a secondary school Head of Mathematics in 2007. In 2008, I became a volunteer at Wentworth Primary School, helping small groups of children with their mathematics, for a few hours a week.

I was asked to become a Community Governor at Wentworth in 2008 and have been a governor ever since.

Julie Sollars

Co-opted Governor

I am married with one child, who attended Wentworth school. Before becoming a governor, I was an active member of the school PTA, raising funds to support, enhance and develop the education of children.

I have worked for Essex County Council for 30 years. During this time, I have worked in a residential home for children and young people with severe learning disabilities as well as challenging behaviour.

I qualified as a Social Worker in 2003. I currently work within the fostering service and have both practise and working knowledge of safeguarding, data protection polices and procedures, which are fundamental to the welfare of all children. These skills are readily transferable to the school setting. I am motivated to use my knowledge, both professional and experience of the school, to support and advise within my role on the governing body.

Chris Thurston

Parent Governor

As a parent of three children in the school, I feel a strong connection to the school and take great pleasure from seeing how the school looks to support my children emotionally, physically and mentally.

I believe that education, especially at a primary level, is critical for a successful outlook in life and that school, assisted by parents, can set the course for children to follow far into adult life.

I am a chartered accountant and chartered tax advisor with many years working in finance roles including assisting with budgeting, forecasting and reporting financial performance. So, I bring a great deal of financial expertise to my role as a governor on the Finance and Premises Committee, and to the Governing Body as a whole, with its aim to assist the school in managing financial performance.

Sarah Weller

Parent Governor

I have been a parent governor at Wentworth for over 4 years. I have a son currently in KS2 and I am a past pupil of the school.

I have worked in accountancy and finance for over 18 years, and I am a member of the Association Chartered Certified Accountants. I have a range of skills, in auditing, accounts preparation, management accounting, taxation, budgeting, payroll & HR.

I am also a Director for The Maldon Mud Race, and through this role, I have developed knowledge of the planning & running of large-scale charity fund raising events.