



MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Debby Thacker (Co-Opted Governor and Co-Chair of governors)



I've been a governor since 2017 and became Chair in 2021. My background is in English and I was a lecturer and Course Leader in English at the University of Gloucestershire for over 20 years. Since retiring, I teach courses in fantasy and children's literature on an American university programme in Bath and do research into several aspects of children's literature. I hold a PhD in children's response to fiction and have a particular interest in children as storytellers and reading for pleasure. I am on the Board of Cheltenham Festivals and MakeBelieve Arts (Helicopter Stories), and am currently the Chair of Trustees for David Vaisey Trust, which gives awards for innovation in Gloucestershire Libraries. I also serve on the Library Board, which has received funding from the Arts Council. My husband, a

mathematician, and I have three sons and three grandchildren.

Sachi Hatakenaka (Co-Opted Governor and Co-Chair of governors)



I joined the governing body in 2021, and have been a co-chair since 2022. Professionally, I worked in education, both at policy and at organizational levels, in over 20 countries. My first degree is in Physics, MPA in public policy and I have a PhD in organizational management. I also have a long standing interest in maths education. I enjoy music (singing and jazz piano), organic gardening (sharing an awful lot with wildlife) and campaigning for wildlife/biodiversity. I am passionate about the unique education our School provides but recognise that the environment can be tough for small schools. I look forward to helping to embed lessons from the school's success and to finding ways to make the school even more resilient. I will also do all I can to ensure that Sheepscombe as a village enjoys the full benefits of having a vibrant local school.



Tessa Lentel (Local Authority, SEND, Safeguarding and Attendance governor)



Although I live in Stroud now, I was brought up in Sheepscombe and attended the village school. I am pleased to keep up my association with the school by being a Governor. I retired from teaching science at a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) school in Cheltenham in 2020 but feel I can still use my experience to support my role as SEND Governor. I have just taken on responsibility as Safeguarding Governor. In addition, I am a churchwarden in Sheepscombe at St John's Church. I remain involved in many aspects of village life, and I am keen to build links between the school and the local community

Dave McCarthy (Co-opted Governor)



I am a finance professional and company director. I am currently Chief Financial Officer at a bank and have held several similar roles. I am qualified as a corporate treasurer and chartered accountant and hold a degree in Geography from the University of Bristol. I have been a resident of the village since 2008 and both of my children were taught at Sheepscombe Primary School.

Matt Stanway (Parent Governor)



I joined as a Parent Governor in September 2018. I have two daughters at Sheepscombe. My association with the school goes back further, as Lead Ranger with the National Trust based at the local estate of Ebworth, I've spent over 15 years collaborating with the school, helping to provide spaces for Forest School activities, a garden and hosting various events. Alongside my countryside management experience of twenty years, I hold a City and Guilds 'Preparing to teach in the Lifelong Learning sector (PTTLS)' certification. I'm a qualified trainer for adults in conservation and agricultural modules and teach occasionally every year. I have been a resident of the village since 2003. I'm keen to contribute towards our community and play an active part supporting my local village school



Alexander Craven (Co-opted Governor)



I joined the Governors in November 2023. I have lived in Sheepscombe Since 2011 and have a daughter at the school as well as a son that is excited to be starting soon. I currently work as a sculptor and digital artist, before which I was in the digital asset and financial commodities industry. I have been both impressed and charmed by the school, not only for the dedication of the staff but also the ethos and atmosphere as a whole. My hope is that my skill set will be of help to the team.

Simon Fraser (Parent Governor and Vice Chair)

I was appointed Parent Governor in June 2023. I am also vice chair and a member of the finance and resource committees. My subject link is History, and I am on the premises and the school environmental sustainability committees.

My introduction to Sheepscombe Primary School was through the attendance of my two children, Molly, and Sebastian. As a parent I was particularly impressed by the caring nature of the school and the dedication of the teaching staff to the nurturing and development of their charges. When a vacancy for the post of Parent Governor arose in 2023, I applied to become part of the team delivering on these core values.

I was educated at Rugby school, Durham, and Cambridge universities where I gained a BA (Hons) degree in Geography and an M.A. in Land Economy. I also qualified as a Chartered Surveyor (M.R.I.C.S.) My career has been in commercial property development, investment, and construction in central London. By virtue of this I am able to bring to the governing body over forty years' experience in financial and property management.

I live in Sheepscombe with my wife, two children, two dogs and a horse. I enjoy riding, shooting. Gardening and cider making. My academic interests are the design and manufacture of 17th, 18th and early 19th century English furniture, medieval history, and ecology.

Richard Crocker (Staff Governor)

My name is Richard Crocker, I am a teacher governor with 20 years of experience in Primary Education. I currently teach Year 5 and Year 6 and serve as the subject leader for science, computing, history, and geography. I have worked at Sheepscombe Primary School for the last three years. I have prior experience in the construction industry which enhances my analytical and problem-solving skills, which I bring to my educational practice. As a governor, I am committed to representing the interests of staff and students, ensuring a supportive and stimulating environment for all.