



MEET OUR GOVERNORS

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

School responsibilities – FRC member, environmental & sustainability, staff CPD

Subject Specialities – Music, maths, science



Sheepscombe Primary School offers a unique education, essential for learning and for the future. I am committed to ensuring the school's resilience, supporting its long-term strategic direction and ensuring that the village continues to benefit from a vibrant school.

I joined the governing body in 2021 and became co-chair in 2022. Before retiring, I worked in education and organisational management for over thirty years, first with the World Bank where I also managed global recruiting and then as an independent consultant. My work was with governments and educational institutions (mostly universities) in more than twenty countries. I have a Bachelors degree in Physics from Oxford, a Masters in public policy from Princeton, and a PhD in management from MIT.

I also have a long-standing professional and personal interest in mathematics education, taught in a fun and engaging way, setting up a charity with a vibrant international network. I am also active in music (singing and jazz piano), organic gardening and supporting campaigns for wildlife and biodiversity.

Tessa Lentel (Co-Opted Governor, Local Authority, SEND, Safeguarding and Attendance governor)

Responsibilities – SEND, Safeguarding and Attendance Governor, Pupil Premium.

Subjects Specialities – RE and Science



I grew up in Sheepscombe and attended Sheepscombe Primary School myself. I had a full professional career as a teacher, starting in secondary schools and a prep school. My final position was a Head of Science in a Special Educational Needs and Disability school in Cheltenham. I have a B.A. in French and B.Sc. in Science.

Ever since my childhood, I have been an active community member of Sheepscombe even without living there. I became a co-opted governor for the school in 2008, continuing later as a Local Authority nominated governor. I am also a churchwarden at St John's in Sheepscombe.

My voluntary work include work for Stroud Committee of CPRE (The Campaign to Protect Rural England), as a Learning Support volunteer at Slimbridge Wildfowl and

Wetlands Trust, and at the Cathedral.

I place a high priority on ensuring that the school maintains strong community links and continues to meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their abilities, skills and interests. I enjoy making sure that the school liaises with the village community and church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, and to hold a joint commemoration for Remembrance Day.



Dave McCarthy (Co-opted Governor)

Responsibilities - FRC Chair, Pay Panel



I am a finance professional and company director. I currently serve as Chief Financial Officer at a bank and have held several similar senior roles. I am a qualified corporate treasurer and chartered accountant, with a degree in Geography from the University of Bristol. I have lived in Sheepscombe since 2008 and both of my children were educated at the school. I am committed to supporting the school's financial oversight, strong governance and strategic planning, ensuring continued stability and responsible decision-making.

Gail George - Staff Governor

Responsibilities – Class teacher, SENDCo, Paediatric First Aider

Subject Specialities- SEND, PSHE, Art



I have lived in the neighbouring village of Cranham for 35 years and my children attended Sheepscombe school.

I have worked at Sheepscombe School since 2013. I am an EYFS and Reception teacher with a deep commitment to early childhood education and inclusive practice. I have been a SENDCo for nine years and hold the NASENCO award, which has strengthened my understanding of how to remove barriers and ensure every child can access learning in a way that suits their needs.

I am passionate about creating an environment where all children can reach their potential and feel supported, valued, and respected. Inclusion sits at the heart of our practice; I believe that when we celebrate diversity and recognise each child's individual qualities, we build a school community where everyone can thrive.

As a staff governor I aim to bring my experience of SEND, early learning, and family partnership to the governing body, helping to ensure that our school remains a place where every pupil feels a sense of belonging and every member of staff feels supported in delivering the best possible education.

Alexander Craven (Co-opted Governor)

Responsibilities in IT, Online Security, website, H&S, grounds & operations and wellbeing.

Subject Specialities – Computing, Forest School & DT, Art, PHSE/ RHE/ SMSC/ Values



I joined the governing body in November 2023. I have lived in Sheepscombe since 2011, with both of my children now attending the school. I currently work as a sculptor and digital artist, following earlier roles within the digital asset and financial commodities sector.

I have been consistently impressed by the school's ethos, its staff and the positive learning environment. I aim to contribute constructively to the governing body through my technical, creative and analytical experience.



Toby Smith (Parent Governor)

Responsibilities - Environmental Sustainability, Communications, School - Parent Links

Subject Specialities - Sports



I have lived in Sheepscombe for eight years, with my son progressing from Little Lambs to Year 4. During that time, I have seen how the school plays a central role in village life and in the strength of the parent and local community. As a parent governor, I aim to combine personal insight with professional experience to support the school's development and ensure that its strategic direction reflects both local priorities and wider responsibilities.

I bring more than twenty years' experience in photography, environmental work and communications. My work has been widely published and exhibited, and I have led research on representation and inclusivity in environmental imagery. I am committed to sustainability, social responsibility and local resilience, and I apply these principles to my role within the governing body.

Simon Faser (Parent Governor)

Responsibilities - Grounds & Operations, Building & Physical Planning, Village & School Relations.

Subject Specialities – History and Geography.



I was appointed Parent Governor in June 2023. My subject link is History, and I am a member of the premises and environmental sustainability committees.

My two children, Molly and Sebastian, introduced me to the school. As a parent, I recognised its strong pastoral environment and the dedication of its staff. This motivated me to apply for the role of Parent Governor.

I was educated at Rugby School and at Durham and Cambridge universities, gaining a BA (Hons) in Geography and an MA in Land Economy. I am a Chartered Surveyor (MRICS), and my professional background includes senior roles in commercial property development, investment and construction in central London.

Julia Wolfe (Co-opted Governor)

Responsibilities – Building & physical planning, FRC Member,

Subject Specialities – EYFS/Phonics and English



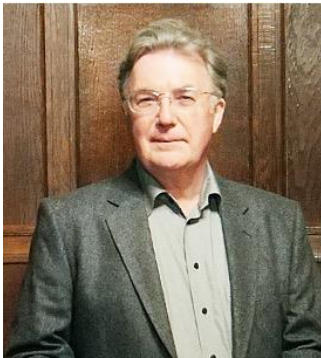
I have been part of the Sheepscombe School community since 2019, when our eldest child joined. We now have three children at the school and feel very fortunate that they are growing up in such a supportive and encouraging environment, where each child is celebrated as an individual.

I became a governor in 2025 and hope to help the school continue to nurture this ethos. Professionally, I am an architect, with a particular interest in how physical spaces can shape experiences, and I hope to support the school in making the most of its buildings and grounds. Alongside this, I lecture at university level and bring experience in education which I look forward to contributing to my role as governor.



Kevin Thacker (Associate Member)

Subject Specialties and Responsibilities – Maths and Cyber Security



I joined the Sheepscombe School governors' team in Autumn 2025 as an Associate Member with a particular interest in the school maths curriculum. After completing a Ph.D. in mathematics at Warwick University I joined the Civil Service and have spent the most recent part of my career working in government cyber security. I have provided technical cyber security support to several major national programs such as the London 2012 Olympic Games and the roll out of smart meters. In 2022 I was awarded an OBE for services to national security. I have experience of maths education through organising Maths Masterclasses for school students for 20 years under the auspices of the Royal Institution, enjoying the opportunity to share my life-long fascination with the subject. I have lived in the village since 2016.

Rachel Maulin (Associate Member)

Subject Specialties and Responsibilities – French and Languages



Sheepscombe school has played a very important part in my life, with both me and my son having been educated there. I also lived in the house next door, which was the old school master's house, for over 20 years, so I enjoyed hearing the children playing and learning. My son and I both benefited from our time at the school, so I am pleased to be able to give something back through my role as an Associate Governor.

After Sheepscombe, I moved to Stroud Girls High School, and from there to Bath University to study Engineering with French. Later, I also obtained an MBA there. My career has been in Engineering companies, mainly in the Aerospace industry, but also automotive, and whenever possible, I have combined my work with my love of the French language and French life. I am now based mainly in France with regular visits to the UK. I teach English as a foreign language to adults and provide English support to a group of school children in France. I believe strongly that learning languages enables us to better understand other cultures, which is essential in our global world. I hope to support the school in fostering this love of other languages and cultures.

Bea Hyde (Clerk of Governors)

I became the Clerk of Governors in 2023. My professional background is business and administration. I enjoy working in community and school settings. As a parent, I really value the role of small schools and understand the importance of clear communication, confidentiality and safeguarding, and I enjoy working closely with the Headteacher and governors to support the school.