



Governance at Taverham Junior School

Governors

Governors are volunteers and come from a wide range of backgrounds. Some governors are members of staff at the school, some are appointed (“co-opted”) because of the skills and experience they can offer, and a number are parent governors. Any parent can apply to be a governor if they have the skills required for the role. If there are more “candidates” than there are available posts, an election is held and all parents of children currently at the school may vote for their preferred candidate. However, governors, whether staff, appointed or parents, fulfil the same role once in post: they do not necessarily represent their background group, but rather work together as a team to provide support and challenge to school leaders, with the ambition of making the school an outstanding provider of education for the young people in this area. The full Governing Board meets approximately once a month throughout the academic year.

Who we are

Matthew Lambert	Parent Governor Chair of Governors	Matthew has three children and has been a Parent Governor at Taverham Junior school since 2018. He will have at least one child on the register of Taverham Junior School until 2026. He is therefore very interested in ensuring the school, children and community have a long-term positive future. He is Managing Director at a Norwich business and looks to apply his broad skills in meeting the expectations of being a governor and in being a supportive, positive and constructive critical friend of the school. He was a Governor previously at Ghost Hill Infant & Nursery school for 6 years.
Lucy Walton	Foundation Governor	Lucy joined the Taverham Junior School Governing Board in March 2023. She has a daughter who attends the school and is an active member of St Edmund’s Church in Taverham. Lucy grew up in Taverham and, having lived in Cambridge, Nottingham and London for university, law school and work, she returned to raise her children here. Lucy is currently a stay at home mum and a carer for her disabled son. Previously, she was a lawyer working in commercial litigation in a large law firm in London. Lucy is part of the team from St Edmund’s Church which runs Prayer Spaces at the school once a week. When children from the school visit the church, she also assists with the activities run for them.
Deidre Porter	Foundation Governor	Deidre was delighted to join Taverham Junior School Governing Board in October 2022 after previously being a governor at another local school for 11 years. Deidre is a retired teacher, having taught in Primary and Secondary schools as well as being a tutor for adults. Much of her career involved assessing and supporting children with additional needs to help them reach their potential and thrive in school. Deidre is a committed member of St Edmunds Church in Taverham and she is involved in children’s work. She also enjoys theatre visits, walking and gardening. She lives in Taverham. All three of her sons attended Taverham Junior School, and she is keen to offer her support as a governor.

Mary Wilson	Associate Governor	Mary is the deputy headteacher and SENCO at the school. She has worked in Primary Education for a number of years holding a variety of positions at infant, primary and junior schools in Norfolk; she has been a governor at some of these schools. Amongst other things, Mary is responsible for the educational provision for Special Needs and Looked After Children at Taverham Junior. She also takes the lead on the pastoral provision for all children at Taverham Junior School.
Helen Wells	Staff Governor	Helen joined Taverham VC CE Junior School in January 2020 as the Finance and Office Manager having worked previously at Nightingale Infant and having supported Ghost Hill Infant as a parent governor for several years. She trained as an accountant with KPMG and upon qualifying worked for Vion Food Group in their UK and European locations before moving into education finance. Whilst pursuing a career in finance, Helen has always worked with young people as a Guide Leader in Taverham and a supporter of Stepping Stones who support adults with learning disabilities to access education and training. Helen has three children, all of whom came to Taverham Junior and was a pupil here herself! Outside of school, she enjoys running, Pilates, many creative hobbies and sampling Norfolk's best cuisine at local restaurants with her husband.
Saqlain Ali	Parent Governor	Saqlain has three children, including one son who currently attends the school, and he joined the Governing Board as a parent Governor in October 2020. He is an Executive Director of a UK Company and takes a particular interest in continuous improvement. Saqlain has a strong ethos in the setting of standards and also in monitoring and measuring performance. He also has significant experience of corporate governance, safeguarding and influencing cultures and behaviours of individuals. Saqlain welcomes the opportunity to positively contribute to the leadership, management and strategic direction of the school.
Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou	Local Authority Governor	Caroline joined the Governing Board in December 2021 as the Local Authority Governor; she has three grown up children and three grandchildren, one of whom currently attends Taverham Junior School. Caroline is also the Broadland District Councillor for Taverham North, and Chair of Taverham Parish Council, and is committed to doing the best for Taverham as it expands into a resilient and caring community. Having studied Architecture and Building at Norwich City College, Caroline's career has been varied, from working in Architecture early on, 27 years in retail after having a family, and finally working for the NHS, before retiring to look after her disabled grandson. Today Caroline enjoys the challenges of local politics and being able to help her residents to the best of her abilities. Her interests include art and design, craftwork, and travel & photography. Caroline is particularly interested in Equality and Diversity, SEN issues, and Art.
Rev. Paul Seabrook	Foundation Governor	Paul is the Parish Priest of St. Edmund's Church in Taverham. Three of his children have attended Taverham Junior School and he has been a Foundation Governor since 2007 as part of his role as Rector of Taverham. Paul is the Governor responsible for monitoring attendance and for Religious education. In addition, he regularly takes assemblies in school, and is delighted that St. Edmund's church has a close and supportive relationship with TJS. Paul believes TJS is a wonderfully supportive and encouraging environment for all children who attend.
Vicky Myers	Parent Governor	Vicky Myers is a mother to two special educational needs children who both attended Taverham Junior. She wishes to support the school in providing opportunities for learning and development for all children. Vicky is a caseworker working in arranging adaptations for a range of people with a variety of disabilities. Having studied craft at Norwich School of Art and Design she continues to enjoy a variety of crafts and DIY.
James Thorpe	Co-opted Governor	James joined the board of governors as a Co-Opted governor. He has a daughter in Year 5 at the school and a son in Year 3, meaning that he will be involved with the school for the next few years. Therefore, the opportunity to join the board of governors was something he was very excited to do. James is a Police Officer within Norfolk Constabulary and prior to this was a secondary school teacher, specializing in working with children and young adults with special educational needs and behavioural concerns. James holds a strong interest in the safety of the children, along with educational opportunities for all students.

Helen Filby	Parent Governor	<p>Helen Filby is a therapeutically trained foster parent who currently has one foster child at the school. She has previously had another child at the school and was very impressed with the help and support that was given by the school. With that in mind, when the opportunity to be a Parent Governor arose she leapt at it. Helen has a background in Education and Child Care and has a special interest in supporting children who have difficulties accessing education.</p>
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