



Governor Biographies

**Gary Wallis-Clarke Head Teacher**

My role is to provide the strategic vision and leadership for the whole school. I have the responsibility of ensuring that all our children are safe in school, receive excellent teaching and make the best possible progress in learning that they can across the curriculum.

My main daily tasks include monitoring and evaluating the work of the school, setting and balancing the school budget and working with the governing body and parents.

Dominic Martin Deputy Head Teacher

My responsibilities cover a number of aspects of school life. Firstly, as my job title suggests, I deputise for Mr Wallis-Clarke in his absence. Secondly, there are my day to day responsibilities; ongoing monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning in classrooms; overseeing the curriculum as a whole; its structure, assessment and evaluation, including the introduction of the new National Curriculum; working alongside the Head Teacher in evaluating school provision and planning strategic improvements, including data tracking and analysis; pastoral care for children, working alongside other agencies to meet the needs of our children; behaviour and safety, including safeguarding, child protection and attendance.

**Jane Edminson Chair / Co-opted Governor**

I have had three children through West Jesmond Primary and Heaton Manor and have been a governor at both schools since 2000. I am also currently Chair at Benton Park Primary. I was Vice Chair at West Jesmond for a number of years and have been Chair of Governors since 2010. I sit on all the committees as well as the group that considers the Headteacher's Performance Management. I am linked to Early Years and represent our governing body on the Ouseburn Learning Trust Board.

Shirley Mills Vice Chair / Co-opted Governor

I have two children, now very grown up, and have been a governor at West Jesmond since 2002 when my youngest child moved to secondary school. I supported the then head teacher throughout the process of rebuilding the school within the Building Schools for the Future initiative, have been closely involved in the School Travel Group, and I currently chair the Pupil Support Committee. I am on all committees except Curriculum and I am the Designated Safeguarding Governor. I am part of the Head Teacher's Performance Review group. I am also Vice Chair of Governors at Heaton Manor and Chair of the Ouseburn Learning Trust.



**Nicky Wise Vice Chair / Foundation Trust Governor**

I have two children, both having enjoyed their primary school education at West Jesmond – my son left Year 6 in 2013 and my daughter leaves in July 2015. I have been a Parent Governor at West Jesmond since 2010 and as well as having been involved in the recruitment of our Headteacher, I have been fully involved in various committees. I took the lead in a marketing / community relations group initially and leading a project with Newcastle University Business School students in a marketing project for the school. I currently chair the Curriculum Committee and take the lead in the Parent Consultations that we carry out alongside the Spring Term Parent Consultation Sessions. I am also on Personnel Committee and take the lead as link Governor for Maths.

Although both my children will have left the school by the summer I am an enthusiastic supporter and now represent the school as a representative within the Ouseburn Learning Trust too.

Xanthe Mills Parent Governor

I became a parent governor at West Jesmond in December 2014 and am involved with the pupil support, curriculum and personnel committees. I have twin boys who are currently in year one, and a daughter who will join reception in September 2015. Until recently I worked as a family barrister specialising in child protection work. I therefore have a particular interest in issues relating to safeguarding our children at school. I currently work part time as a Local Improvement Board member, providing professional governance to a group of academy schools in Teesside.

**Gavin Aarvold Co-opted Governor**

My two sons, Henry and Silas, attended WJPS. Silas became a teacher and Henry married one. That persuaded me to volunteer my services to the school, after-all it was the school's fault they had turned out so well! Some four years later I was asked by the then Head Teacher, Mrs Lyons, if I would be prepared to be a Governor - a position I have now held for some eight years. I am involved in a number of committees and also act as one of the Safeguarding, and Early Years governors.

Very recently my wife, Joan, and I agreed to assist in the running of the School Allotments on Highbury until the end of July 2015, in the hope that by then sufficient volunteers have been recruited to continue it.

Henry Cave Parent Governor

I have been a governor since 2012 and currently am on the Finance and Personnel committees. I have had 4 children through the school and work as a solicitor. I have been a rugby coach at Northern Rugby Football Club for the past 7 years.

I attended Newcastle university and graduated in 1986 and have lived in Jesmond ever since. I decided to put myself forward as a parent governor in 2012, and I have found the whole experience very rewarding and can recommend it.





Paul Simpson Co-opted Governor

I currently have two children in School. I have been a governor for 2 years. I am the Chair of the Finance Committee, a member of admissions subcommittee and one of the link governors for Safeguarding.

I have worked in the local authority for over 17 years and have a wealth of experience in working within Schools.

Sue Knight Co-opted Governor

I work at Northumbria University as a Senior Lecturer in Primary English for Initial Teacher Education. I also run CPD sessions for school staff on reading, writing and speaking and listening interventions and am passionate about getting children excited about reading. I am enthusiastic to be working with West Jesmond governing body as a Co-opted Governor, keeping close links with children's teaching and learning within an outstanding school.



Laura Robb Parent Governor

I am a parent governor and have 2 boys currently at WJPS. I have previously worked for Procter & Gamble as an HR Manager and so have a particular interest in all things related to staffing, training, coaching, appraising and organisations. I am the chair of the Personnel Committee and really enjoy being involved in recruitment of new staff and many other matters relating to the large staff team working at WJPS. I also sit on the Curriculum Committee.

David Griffiths Parent Governor

I am a parent governor with two children at West Jesmond. I joined the governing body in 2015. I am a Chartered Surveyor and am a director of a niche practice specialising in investment. My hope is that West Jesmond Primary School will continue to thrive and my business skill set will complement the existing governance team. A personal goal will be to encourage more active and fitter children within the school.



Arlene Ainsley LA Governor

I'm a Newcastle City Councillor and have been a school governor for over 25 years.

Before coming to West Jesmond I was Chair of a large primary school during which time I supported the school through many changes and challenges.

I work for a sports charity which encourages more people to become sports coaches, supporting their training needs and placing them in clubs and schools where they can coach more youngsters to take part in sport. When I'm not working I enjoy spending time with my two daughters and two young grandsons.

Freda Summerfield Parent Governor

I have two children, a girl leaving year 6 in July 2015 and an older boy who attended West Jesmond.

I am the Science and PE link Governor and sit on the Curriculum and Community Relations committees.

I am secretary and an active member of the Friends.

**Jill Hetherington Foundation Trust Governor**

I'm an Ouseburn learning trust governor at West Jesmond, Mum to Jack currently in year 4 and I work full time in the cycle industry. I'm a board member at The Cycle Hub, a social enterprise in the Ouseburn promoting and encouraging cycling. This gives me a particular focus on travel and the safety of our children travelling to school. I sit on a number of committees and I'm the link governor for SEND.

Deb Hainsworth Staff Governor (Co-opted)

I work across the year groups in school as an HLTA and also have a Community role building links between West Jesmond and our wider community. I develop a range of opportunities for children to work with various organisations and volunteers. The many projects provide learning opportunities which enrich our curriculum and encourage a sense of involvement and responsibility beyond the school environment. I am a member of the Community Relations Committee and Curriculum Committee.

**Clare Byatt Staff Governor**

This is my third year as a class teacher at West Jesmond Primary School and I currently teach Year 4.

I joined the board of Governors in the capacity of staff governor in December 2013 and sit on the Curriculum and Community Relations committees.

Cathy Hogan Staff Governor (Co-opted)

I have been a teacher at West Jesmond for 6 years, and this is my second year teaching in year 1.

I joined the board of governors as staff governor in May 2015 and sit on the curriculum committee. I have two children, a 4 year old daughter who is due to start Primary School in September and a 2 year old son.

