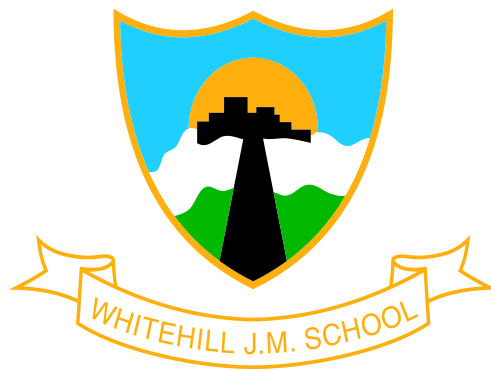


Meet the Governors



November 2021

Dear Parents.

I would like to introduce you to Whitehill's Governing Body as I am aware that many of you may not know who we are or what we do. We have a very keen, enthusiastic governing body at Whitehill, with a number of new members joining a relatively experienced majority. We have a great blend of skills and experience. Our team of governors get involved in school life in many ways: visits by governors linked to specific subjects, engaging and listening to the views of pupils, participation in key activities such as Science week, supporting the leadership with school visits, benchmarking our budgets, and asking questions on policies. We're here to support the leadership team by seeking to clarify, understand, and constructively challenge assumptions, and hold the school to account on behalf of parents and the local authority.

All governors are volunteers, normally serve a 4-year term and take an active role in the school. Each has their own specialist area of responsibility and regularly liaises with relevant staff and feeds back their findings to the full governing body. The full governing body meet on a termly basis and these meetings normally follow those of the sub-committees. The sub-committees deal with specific areas of school life such as Premises, HR, Finance and Curriculum and consist of those governors with the relevant interest and skillsets.

Our governing body consists of 12 people taken from both within the school and the local community. They are –

1 x Headteacher

1 x Staff Governor

3 x Parent Governors

5 x Co-opted Governors (these are local community members who have relevant skills to support the school)

1 x Local Authority Governor (approved/recommended by the local authority)

1 x Associate Governor (invited to join to share knowledge and skills)

Attached is a full list of our governors and their responsibilities as well as a brief pen-portrait just so you know who we are should you see us in the playground or around the school. Feel free to say 'hi' and ask any questions should you have them. Please remember that any issues or complaints should still follow the normal procedure of firstly going through the relevant member of staff or the Headteacher.

Kind Regards,

Wendie Ray

Wendie Ray
Chair of Governors
Whitehill Junior School

Sam Addison



Co-opted Governor
Joined Governing Body – Oct 2014

As a mother of three children, all of whom have completed and benefited from their education at Whitehill, I feel strongly about supporting the school and playing a part in ‘giving something back’.

With experience in property and construction as a Chartered Surveyor, and many years volunteering for Blueharts Hockey Club, I feel I offer proactive, practical support to the school in the role of governor.

I’m enjoying working with my fellow governors and the School’s leadership team and look forward to a successful year ahead!

Main Responsibilities

- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum
- Creative Arts, Music & Sport Link Governor
- School Development Plan

Heidi Burniston



Associate Governor
Joined Governing Body – Sept 2018

Since joining Whitehill as a class teacher in 2007 and having also enjoyed a teaching placement here in 2005, whilst training, I have experienced a variety of roles and opportunities working with pupils, staff and parents across the school.

My current role affords me the opportunity to work with colleagues in different teaching teams and the Senior Leadership Team.

Additionally, I support the school council and liaise with our Junior Leadership Team, which helps me to understand and appreciate the perspectives of our pupils and staff in all areas of our community.

Main Responsibilities

- Curriculum.
- Subject link – n/a.
- Committees – Curriculum

Katharine Campbell-Flint



Parent Governor
Joined Governing Body – October 2021

As a mum with two children at Whitehill and another joining in the future, I'm personally invested in making sure that the school continues to provide children with a fantastic experience.

I am a qualified primary teacher having taught Reception to Year 6. I feel that this experience paired with my personal involvement through my own children will help me to support the school with knowledge and insight from both sides.

I am passionate about education, about supporting teachers so that they continue to thrive at work, and most of all about ensuring that all pupils have access to the education they deserve in a way that reflects all interests and abilities.

Main Responsibilities

- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR
- GDPR Governor
- Humanities (History, Geography & RE) Link Governor
- School Development Plan

Jon Clayden




Parent Governor
Joined Governing Body – October 2021



I have daughters in Year 6 and Year 4, and have always found Whitehill to be friendly and welcoming! I hope to play a part in ensuring that this continues, and that the experience of all pupils is as nurturing and supportive as possible.

In my day job I am a university lecturer and researcher in developmental neuroscience and child health, and I've been heavily involved with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at my institute for more than five years.



Main Responsibilities

- Committees – Curriculum
- Science Link Governor
- School Development Plan

<p>Laura Cole</p>  <p>Co-opted Governor Joined Governing Body – April 2016</p>	<p>As a parent of a son who currently attends Whitehill and a younger daughter who can't wait to join, I am privileged to have the opportunity to support the school.</p> <p>I am SENCO and Head of Learning Support and Learning for Life at a local secondary school where I am also a safeguarding officer and mental health lead. I am also a Specialist Leader in Education for PSHE, Mental Health, Well-being and emotional support, which means I can work with schools beyond my own in a supportive manner.</p> <p>I am passionate about the need to encourage children to develop enquiring minds and a lifelong love of learning through creative teaching strategies and care for their well-being. My areas of strength for governance at Whitehill are my knowledge of secondary transition, teacher training, safeguarding, data, well-being, SEND and inclusion.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection/Safeguarding. • Committees – Curriculum (Chair) • RSHE Link Governor • School Development Plan 	
<p>Gill Cook</p>  <p>Co-opted Governor Joined Governing Body – Nov 2014</p>	<p>I have been working in education for the past twenty odd years, mainly in the school office but also as a teaching assistant for a while. I completed the 'School Business Manager' degree course in 2005.</p> <p>I look after the business side of education, finance, premises and HR, reporting back to the head and governing body. This allows the head to focus on the curriculum.</p> <p>I have worked in a voluntary capacity as treasurer for a local cub pack until it disbanded and as vice chair on the PTA when my children were at school. I am the chairperson of the PPG at my doctor's surgery.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees – Premises, Finance, HR. • Well Being • Policies, Finance. • School Development Plan • Subject link – n/a. 	

<p>Ellie McGurk</p>  <p>Staff Governor Joined Governing Body – July 2021</p>	<p>During my time at Whitehill I have enjoyed the opportunity to teach both year 3 and 5, as well as be involved within clubs which correlate with my passions externally from school (music and sports). It has been amazing to work within such a supportive staff team.</p> <p>I have recently completed a study on wellbeing and inclusion and relish the opportunity to partake in ensuring the school continues to excel in being an accepting and truly inclusive school. Whitehill already provides fantastic opportunities for all, both staff and pupils alike, and I would appreciate the opportunity to look at how these can be continued and progressed.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum • Subject link – n/a. • Committees – Curriculum. 	
<p>Steve Mills</p>  <p>Head Teacher Joined Governing Body – Sept 2013</p>	<p>Having taught in both Luton and Hitchin I was appointed Head of Whitehill in September 2013.</p> <p>One thing I have found since taking up this post is that time goes even quicker than it did when I was in the classroom. No two days are the same and even when you think your diary is clear: something (or someone) will keep you very busy!</p> <p>The aim for me is to build upon the many successes of the school, including the 2017 Ofsted inspection, and to continue to ensure our pupils leave Whitehill ready to take on the challenges of secondary school.</p> <p>I firmly believe in the power of communication to drive us forward and hope that this is evident from the way I lead the school.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting to Governing Body. • School Development Plan – All Priorities. • Subject link – All • Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum. 	

<p>Anna Pargeter</p>  <p>Co-oped Governor Joined Governing Body – Oct 2016</p>	<p>I'm proud to have the opportunity to be involved with such a vibrant school that celebrates all aspects of a child's development.</p> <p>As a Mum of three children who attend (or have attended) Whitehill, I am passionate about supporting the school and staff, to help them continue to deliver the fantastic educational experience that allows all of our children to achieve to the best of their ability.</p> <p>I currently work part time at Hitchin Girls School in the Exams team, I am also involved in Scouting in Hitchin and previously worked in data and marketing.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees – Resources (Chair) & Curriculum • Design and Technology Link Governor • Pupil Premium Link Governor • School Development Plan 	
<p>Wendie Ray</p>  <p>Local Authority Governor Joined Governing Body – Nov 2014</p>	<p>I've enjoyed a career in advertising for over 25 years, creating strategies and ads for brands and companies that help them become a part of people's everyday lives.</p> <p>I believe in the value of bringing visions to life, of the power of stories and ideas to motivate and the importance of purpose and knowing why you do something.</p> <p>My son is now at HBS, having benefitted from having had his curiosity and desire to learn fired-up at Whitehill. I believe in the fundamental importance of primary school education to every child. I want to help create the best environment at Whitehill, so they can continue to nurture every child's curiosity and creativity, deliver the best education, and inspire curious, engaged individuals with a passion for learning and for life.</p> <p>I became Chair in October 2019.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of Governors • Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum • Modern Foreign Languages Link Governor • School Development Plan 	

<p>Alasdair Weir</p>  <p>Parent Governor Joined Governing Body – November 2019</p>	<p>I am a chartered engineer, leading large design and project delivery teams in the oil and gas industry. My work primarily involves interacting with people, be they colleagues, clients or external stakeholders, and I find this aspect of my job most rewarding.</p> <p>I have two children at Whitehill and one on the way in a few years. I love what the school does and how it feels already and hope to be able to play my part as a governor in developing and supporting its plans going forward.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chair of Governing Body • Committees – Resources (Vice-Chair) • Health & Safety • Maths Link Governor • School Development Plan 	
<p>Tracy Wilson</p>  <p>Co-opted Governor Joined Governing Body – Nov 2020</p>	<p>Having recently retired from teaching after twenty five years, I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to Whitehill School and community in a voluntary role.</p> <p>I was a teacher locally, in both state and private schools, in a variety of teaching and leadership roles. I am looking forward to using my experience to support the development of all at Whitehill School.</p> <p>I am also a parent with two grown up children who have benefited from going to Hitchin schools and I have, for several years, been involved in mentoring students from across Hitchin secondary schools.</p>
<p>Main Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees – Curriculum (Vice-Chair) • English Link Governor • Pupil Premium Link Governor • School Development Plan 	

A Few Details About Being A Governor

All schools are legally required to have a Governing Body – to ensure procedures are followed, to make sure that things are done properly, and that the school is run safely.

Schools have a Governing Body to help keep them to the highest standards. We approve some of the decisions made by the Head Teacher and support and challenge the work going on in Whitehill. We aim to help Whitehill constantly improve its facilities and ensure that education for all is the best it can be.

A Governing Body is made up of Staff Governors, Parent Governors, Co-opted Governors, Associate Governors and LA Governors. Each have different responsibilities but work in Committees which cover Resources (finance, premises and HR) and Curriculum.

Achievement and safeguarding run through the very core of everything we do – making sure every pupil feels safe to achieve their own profound individual growth.

What impact does the Governing Body have on Whitehill?

The Governing Body helps to make our school environment the best it can be by supporting the Head Teacher and all teaching staff. Governors ensure that all children are happy, safe and that they all achieve their best potential. We also help decide where money should be spent – ensuring Whitehill has the best resources it possibly can, and that money is spent wisely. We also help to make decisions on hiring teachers and staff to help the children.

Each Governor focusses on specific subjects and the learning of different groups of pupils - to offer their support and to monitor what is happening in school. This makes sure that the children have the best opportunities in which to learn.

We hold the school accountable, which means we ensure that the Head Teacher and teaching staff are doing their jobs properly. We ask challenging questions, meet with teachers to understand what's going on, work on action plans and the School Development Plan and know all about the impact of learning in school.

What are the aims of the Governing Body?

Governing Bodies are required to have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Whitehill Governors want our school to be the best it possibly can. We want children to be happy and safe in their learning environment and to have lots' of opportunities which will help them to grow up to be good citizens, with a great confidence in their ability to learn and who have a strong understanding of the world around them.

How to be a Governor

There are several ways in which you can become a Governor. Parent Governors are elected through a voting system – you might have seen our request for new parent governors at the start of the term. We welcome Kate Campbell-Flint and Jon Clayden to the team.

If you are interested in being a Governor in the future, we'd love to hear from you. There are no specific qualifications needed, and there's training once you join to make sure you have all the information and knowledge you need to do the job. We think a Governing Body that reflects the range of backgrounds of children at the school is better able to act in their interests. Depending upon the make-up of the current Governing Body and the skill sets we have between us, we do sometimes look for specific areas of experience.

Governors need to be passionate about the school and want the best for the children in it. They need to ask questions about what is being done and why. They need to be able to work as part of a team, and to work democratically. But perhaps most importantly, governors need to have lots of enthusiasm, and to put children first all of the time.