Yaxley Infant School Governors

Name	Category of Governor	Date of appointed	Term of Office End Date	Resignation Date	Serving Committee's	Comments
Sarah Pontikis (Chair)	Co-opted	October 2017	October 2029		Teaching & Learning Committee Leadership & Management Committee Child Protection H&S Governor	I have a vested interest in the school as I have three children who either have, are or will attend Yaxley infants. I care about the school, the education and the experience of all the children who attend. I work in a GP surgery, my main focus is patient care but within my role I also demonstrate critical thinking and good record keeping including writing and reviewing policies and auditing. For the last few years I have been on the management committee of Stretton Pre-school and I am an active member of the friends of YIS.
Laura Wales	Staff	Sept 2025	N/A		Teaching & Learning Committee Leadership & Management Committee	Blog to be added shortly
Caitlin Gray	Parent	July 2022	July 2026		Teaching & Learning Committee	I am a mother of 3, with Freya currently in reception, Neve and Abel My husband, Cameron and I live in the village and play an active role in the community. We have a plot in the community allotment and Cameron sits on Stretton Pre-school's board of directors. I would like to be a parent governor as I believe I have a skillset that can

					Allergy Governor H/T Appraisal	provide value to the school. I'm enthusiastic, approachable, hardworking and am meticulous in the projects I work on. I am a senior animal technologist at Covance, a contract research organisation, in which I work to GLP (good laboratory practice) and other QMS (quality management system) protocols. Outside of work I enjoy craft such as knitting and sewing.
Lisa Potkins	Parent	Feb 2024	Feb 2028		Leadership & Management Committee Pupil premium Governor	I am interested in becoming a governor as I would like to be able to give up some of my spare time to something that helps my local community. I am grateful for the education I received which gave me the opportunity to pursue my chosen career and feel strongly that all children should be given the same opportunities. Primary schooling is so important in shaping our children and Yaxley Infant school do a wonderful job and I would like to be a small part of that. I am a qualified accountant and have been working in finance within industry for over 20 years. I have lots of experience in budgets and forecasting, costing, tax and other areas of finance. I also have experience of running a small business alongside my husband when we ran a pub. I am current treasurer of the friends of Yaxley infant school and see first hand how the fundraising efforts directly impact the children and their experience of school.
Tiffany Christian	Parent	Feb 2024	Feb 2028		Teaching & Learning Committee SEND Governor	I would like to express my interest in becoming a Parent Governor at Yaxley Infant School. My daughter, Ivy Burroughs, started in Reception in September 2023 and I have been impressed by her progress in such a short time period and how well she has settled into the school environment. I strongly believe that my knowledge and expertise are transferrable to a parent governor role. My expertise lies within education. I was a primary school teacher for thirteen years at a one-form entry school in Peterborough. During my career, I was a member of the Senior Leadership Team, English and Phonics Lead, Key Stage Two Lead, and staff governor. Within my SLT role, I have experience of writing and reviewing the school's development plan which included measurable and ambitious targets, observing teaching and learning, and providing targeted feedback to raise standards and accelerate progress. I also asked

						challenging questions during staff and governors' meetings. I have experience of Ofsted inspections and am up to date with safeguarding training. I left teaching in July 2023 to work for SENDIASS at Cambridgeshire County Council as a Parents' School Preference Advisor. This role enables me to work closely with parents, providing impartial advice and support during the admissions and appeals process. Within my experience, I believe I can provide a parental viewpoint to developing and improving outcomes and experiences for children. I am approachable, professional and a good communicator and support the school's vision and values, especially every child is happy, healthy and heard. As mentioned, I ask challenging questions and would like to make a difference by supporting the school as best as I can. I am passionate about learning and education, and would love to be a part of your governing body.
Michelle LeGrande	Staff	Sept 2024	Sept 2028		Teaching & Learning Committee	I first joined YIS in 2017, but have been teaching over 20 years, predominantly in key stage one. I am a year two class teacher, RE and Science coordinator and a member of our school leadership team. I love working alongside our wonderful staff and families and I'm proud to have seen our lovely school grow so much in my time here. I am passionate about being involved in our collective vision for moving our school forward and ensuring all our children reach their full potential, feel safe and happy during their time with us. I have always shown my commitment and dedication to the school and feel very proud to be part of the governing body to help support our children, families and colleagues. I have a wealth of knowledge and experience which will enable me to continue to help drive our school, alongside an experienced governing body, where the children remain at the heart of what we do every day and continue to shine!

Gemma Thistlethwaite-Burns	Co-opted	February 2025	February 2029		Leadership & Management Committee H/T Appraisal Attendance Governor	Blog to be added shortly
Nikki Sawyer	Co-opted	Sept 2026	Sept 2030		Teaching & Learning Committee EYFS Governor	Although the role of a governor with you is new to me, I am not new to the school. I was originally asked to provide supply cover for a couple of weeks, but those few weeks turned into four very happy years! During that time, I got to know the school, its staff, children and families well, and I developed a real affection for the whole school community. My professional background is in education and before coming to Yaxley Infant School, I worked as a deputy headteacher at a local primary school, where I was also a teacher governor. This gave me valuable experience of school leadership, strategic decision-making and the important role that governors play in supporting a school. I later left that position to establish my own private tuition business, which is now my current line of work. Through tuition, I continue to support children and families so remain closely connected to education. I strongly believe that every child should be supported to reach their full potential, while being recognised and treated as an individual. I believe that children learn best when they feel happy, valued and included, and when they know they are an important part of their school community which I feel is very much in line with the aims of our school.

						I hope that my experience, values and understanding of the school will enable me to make a positive contribution, and I am excited to continue to work with Yaxley Infant School in helping every child learn, grow and thrive.
Sarah Hare	Co-opted	April 2020	Resigned	July 2026		I am Vicar of St Peter's Church, Yaxley and have been in the village since September 2019. I was invited to visit the school and love coming into the school to talk to and listen to the children through assemblies and other events. I feel very passionately about schools and the pressures that they are under and I love being part of how these challenges are met and supporting staff, parents and children through my role as a Vicar and a Governor. I have been a Governor in previous Parishes over the last 6 years and am also Governor of William De Yaxley School and Hampton Gardens School.
Nick Christopher	Co-opted	November 2014	Resigned	Aug 2025		Firstly, what I bring to the table is that I care about improving the educational experience of all the children attending Yaxley Infant School. With my current job role, I have experience with managing financial budgets & KPI's, I also have experience with commercial buildings with heating systems & general maintenance.
Donna Edson	Staff	Jan 2013	Resigned	Aug 2025		I have a B.Ed. (Hons) in Primary and Early Years from Oxford University, a SEN national award and National Professional Qualification of Headship. As you will see, I always maintain a passion for not just children's learning but my own too! I have loved being a part of Yaxley Infant School for many years now in many capacities, as a teacher, a SENCO, a Deputy head and now the Head Teacher. I know many of the families here and feel very proud of what the school community has achieved over the time I have been here. I am happily married, have two grown up girls (23 and 20) and feel very proud of them, as both are scientists. We love to go on holiday as a family and being outside- whatever the weather!
Sarah Search	Co-opted	Oct 2024	Resigned			
Sue Aylett	Co-opted	Jan 2022	Resigned	May 2024		I have lived in Yaxley for over thirty years and in that time have had many connections with Yaxley Infants School initially when my eldest

						three children attended the school, and I volunteered as a parent helper and member of the FYIS committee. Before beginning a series of professional connections through my role as a Pre-school Manager and more recently as an Early Years Specialist Teacher for SEND Services supporting children with additional needs to transition to the school. I hold a BEd (Hons) degree in Education (Primary Years) and Mathematics, from York University and have specialised in supporting children in the Early Years of their Education as both a reception teacher and Pre-school Manager before becoming a Specialist Teacher supporting children in their Pre-school years with special educational needs. Following my retirement from these roles it has been a pleasure to start a new involvement with Yaxley Infants School as a Governor providing an opportunity to link my interest and knowledge in supporting all children to access education with my interest in my local community. Over the years I have known the school I have seen it develop into a respected, inclusive school that offers a therapeutic approach to developing all children's skills and knowledge to the best of their ability in a calm, stimulating environment and I look forward to playing an active role using the skills I have to continue to support the school to grow and thrive in an ever changing educational framework.
Sharron Watt	Local Authority	Sept 2019	Resigned	July 2024		I have three grown up children who all attended Yaxley Infant School, while they were attending I volunteered on the Friends of Yaxley Infant School PTA committee. Later I volunteered at William De Yaxley Junior School helping with the literacy hour, tuck shop and various sports events e.g. A1 sports. More recently I've helped at St Peters Church mums and tots group Sparks and the Holiday Club. For the last 27 years I've been the Company Secretary of our family business D Watt Roadways Ltd a tarmac surfacing company doing the accounts and all office administration. Since Easter 2019 I've come into the school to listen to Year One pupils read and have been very impressed in how well behaved the children are and how welcoming

						the school is. I look forward to giving you my time and experience of life to help the smooth running of the school for the wellbeing of the children and staff. Also to keep the high standards the school achieves.
Michelle Giles	Co-opted	March 2021	Resigned	Sept 2023		I have lived in Yaxley my whole life and both the village and Yaxley Infant school have a special place in my heart. I went to Yaxley Infant school when I was a little girl and have the fondest memories. In more recent years both of my children have attended the school and presently I am a teaching assistant at school and I absolutely love my job. As a mother I couldn't have asked for a better school for my children, they absolutely thrived in all areas of their development during their time at the school. As a teaching assistant I feel privileged to work as part of such an amazing team. To see every child happy in school and to watch them grow and develop not only academically but also socially and emotionally and to know we play a part in that is the most wonderful feeling. I know that the governing body play a crucial role in enabling the school to create amazing opportunities for the children and to provide the nurturing atmosphere we are so greatly known for. I would love to take on the role of staff governor to learn and extend my knowledge of the school and the hard work that is put in behind the scenes. To be able to support the amazing work the governors do, to offer opinions and ideas using my experiences and knowledge of what happens day to day in the classrooms and to assist in any way I can. I would like to be a part of keeping our incredible school exactly that and to continue to provide the excellent provision we do.
Belinda Lynch	Co-opted	Sept 2019	Resigned	Sept 2023		1 took retirement 3 years ago after a 40 year career in education which began following a 4 year Bachelor of Education Programme (Hons). Having taught in a range of schools, as well as adult education, my experience covers foundation stage and key stages 1, 2, 3, and 4 (ages 4-18). Twenty four of those years I have been in school leadership, as a deputy head teacher, acting head teacher and head teacher. Latterly, I trained as an Ofsted Inspector (although did not complete the dissertation and assessment section because the Government removed Ofsted Provision from private providers part

						way through my training). At this time I also worked for the Cambridge Institute of Education as a Partnership Tutor, mentoring trainee teachers in primary schools. In addition I worked with the Scottish Qualifications Authority, trialling assessment and testing materials in Primary Schools. I have seen many changes in Education Policy including the introduction of the National Curriculum in 1988; the National strategies for Literacy, Numeracy and SEAL some years later and a succession of curriculum framework changes and testing and assessment arrangements and policies. The local knowledge I gained during my time as head teacher in Yaxley (2000-2016), together with the experiences I have described above, make me ideally place to support Yaxley Infant School as a governor. I look forward to taking a more strategic role and supporting policy making which will underpin the school's continuous journey of improvement in order to provide the very best of education for the children in its care. Having had a complete break from education I now relish the challenge of being part of this continued journey and would hope to make a positive contribution through long term planning, support and challenge, monitoring and evaluation, effective teamwork, participation and collaboration.
Mel Willis	Parent	January 2019	Resigned	July 2023		I fell in love with Yaxley Infant School the moment I visited as a prospective parent back in 2013. The enthusiasm and passion of all the staff, and their clear desire to provide the very best start in education to all our children was as evident then as it is now. This has arguably encouraged and motivated me to stand for the role of parent governor. My son Cade is currently in year 1 and my daughter Cora, is now in year 4 having finished her journey through Yaxley Infant School in 2017. My 'day job' involves working to safeguard the general public, children and vulnerable adults alike. I am used to working with a diverse range of people and partnership agencies and am able to develop effective working relationships quickly. By joining the governing body, I am hoping to continue to contribute to the school in a positive way by ensuring that a parent's perspective is always taken account of when important decisions are made. Those who know me, know I am not shy in coming forward and am passionate and

						enthusiastic about the needs of our children, however, often approach this with a sense of humour and fun.
Diane Watson	Co-opted	April 2020	Resigned	May 2023		I am a long-term resident of Yaxley village and have always maintained interest in local education. Indeed, my three sons benefited greatly from the education within the village during their formative years which gave them an excellent start to the careers and life they are now enjoying. I thoroughly enjoyed my terms of office at Yaxley Infant school as a Governor and as Chair of the governing body and as life has moved on, yet again, have further time to give support to you, your staff and the pupils in what have become more challenging times.
Tom Walton	Parent	April 2021	Resigned	June 2022		I am a father of 2, with Freddie currently in year 1. I am committed to improving and developing the outcome for children in the education system. I want to ensure educational standards continues to be of the highest possible standard and hold the school to account if those standards aren't maintained. I want to ensure the right questions are asked of the school. I have a genuine interest in the education system and in the success of the school. I am currently employed in a dual role at Sawtry Village Academy and Academy Leisure. My experience is predominantly in the leisure industry as an Operations Manager. This is a wide-ranging occupation dealing with day to day running of leisure facilities, Health & Safety, financial management, performance management and customer care.
Richard Hilliard	Co-opted	September 2015	Resigned	July 2021		I have experience of supporting, developing and leading high performing teams in an educational environment through rigorous performance management, effective curriculum planning & delivery and robust self-assessment and monitoring. I have strong analytical skills, I am people focused and have experience of many collaborative projects.
Sheena Longfoot	Co-opted	October 2018	Resigned	July 2021		1 am a mother of three adult children, two of whom are teachers. I am a Grandma to six grandchildren, five girls and one boy. Two have attended Yaxley Infant School, with great success and a third has just started in Early Years. I was employed in education for twenty years as a teaching assistant, a Peripatetic guitar tutor and finally once my children had left home, as a qualified classroom teacher in KS2. I have been married to

						Richard, a retired Anglican Clergyman for 46 years. We have lived in Yaxley for 7 years and have maintained a link with the school when Richard served as a governor for several years and through our Grandchildren. I served as a staff governor many years ago when I was teaching. I keep my links in education by volunteering for the Peterborough Riding for the Disabled every week, working with children with special educational needs from four local schools who come as part of their curriculum. I hope that my experience, knowledge and understanding of education, and classroom practice from a variety if angles will be useful on the governing body of Yaxley Infant School.
Patrick Connolly	Parent	October 2017	Resigned	July 2021		I have over 20 years experience in the management of highway infrastructure projects, My daughter is in her first year at Yaxley Infant School and her education is of the upmost importance to me. I relish the opportunity to work with the parents, teachers and other governors to make a difference not just for my daughter but for the school as a whole.