



**WILKINSON  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
GOVERNOR  
PROFILES  
SEPTEMBER 2022**





## **About School Governors**

School governors are volunteers who help run schools. They play an important role in managing, supporting and improving schools.

What school governors do

Governors sit on the school's governing board and work with the school to ensure they improve each year. They:

- hold the headteacher to account for a school's performance
- make sure the budget is spent wisely
- set the school targets and ensure they are met
- take part in hearings and appeals
- making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- appoint and dismiss staff

Governors attend meetings during the school year to discuss the school's progress.





**Mr. Andrew Foster**  
**Chair** Health and Safety, Buildings and Finance

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I have been a governor at Wilkinson Primary School for over 15 years and I am both proud and privileged to have been part of the school for so long. I was born and raised in Lord Street then my family moved to Walter Road. I worked for Wolverhampton City Council for 30 years managing a variety of Care services for older people which included domiciliary care and reablement services. During this time I spent almost 20 years working in the Bradley area. Currently I am employed by Voyage Care who provide supported living. This varied work career has enabled me to bring skills and knowledge to the school to ensure that we all achieve the best outcomes for our children. My areas of interests are Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Human Resources. I am a trustee and the secretary of Bradley Senior Citizens' Centre and also a trustee of Bilston Pensioner Federation. My hobbies include traditional letterpress printing and local history.

### **Note from the Chair**

As Governors we make many visits to School over the course of a term. Each time we visit we discuss what we have seen and use our knowledge to support Mrs Gibbon and Staff to ensure that the children are receiving the best possible education. I have personally made many visits to School and I am always amazed by the hard work and dedication of the Staff. I am also immensely **proud of the children** in their care. They are a great credit to the School. You as parents/carers have every reason to feel proud of your children. We care passionately about providing our children with an education that will prepare them for their future. We want our children at Wilkinson Primary School to be confident, independent learners who know how to make informed decisions about the choices they make in life. As parents and carers you have an important role in supporting your child/children at home and this helps greatly in their learning in School and I would like to thank you all for the continued commitment and support that you all show to Wilkinson Primary School, it is very much appreciated. I look forward to working in partnership with you all to move the School on to achieve even greater success in the future.



**Mrs. Julie Thomas**

**Vice Chair**

Early Years, Pupil premium,  
Vulnerable Children, Safeguarding

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My name is Julie Thomas and I feel privileged to say I am a governor at Wilkinson Primary School. Some members of the school community may know me as 'Nurse Julie' as I have been the school nurse for the school since 1986.

I lead the school nurse team at Bilston Health Centre, working with pupils, parents, education and many other services. My role is varied and I have experience and knowledge in health, health education, safeguarding, audit, leadership and management, development of policies, training etc. I enjoy working with others to help meet the needs of the pupils, families and staff of the school. I feel pupils, parents and staff find me approachable, caring, empathetic, enthusiastic, and motivated and above all a good listener.

Working in Bilston for over thirty years has enabled me to have excellent understanding of the area, its needs and the challenges. Prior to working in Bilston I undertook my Registered General Nurse training at The Royal and New Cross Hospitals, working on surgery and paediatrics. I qualified as a Specialist Practitioner in Public Health in 1998 and as a Practise Teacher in 2001.

My hobbies include attending my local gym (I must practise what I preach), gardening and generally having fun.



**Mr Nick Hodges**

**Staff Governor**

Curriculum—Creative / Foundation Subjects

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Having the opportunity to become a governor at the school where I work is an honour - knowing that I get to see the impact of the decisions that are made, and how this benefits the children in my care. I started my education career working in Outdoor Education as a climbing instructor in the Peak District in 2001. During this time, I worked with a whole array of different age groups, varying from children of primary school age to adulthood. After voluntarily teaching guitar in a rural primary school, I was encouraged to 'get into teaching'. Subsequently, I attended a four year degree in primary education and qualified as an NQT in 2008, successfully acquiring a teaching post at a Junior school in the Borough of Sandwell. I joined Wilkinson Primary School in the autumn of 2015 as the Music Coordinator. As a teacher, I'm truly passionate about education; being able to work with children to help and encourage them to become independent learners, learners that are full of questions and intrigue about the world in which they live in, helping to steer them, sharing life lessons as well as exposing them to an inspirational curriculum is an absolute

**Miss Emma Lane**

**Staff Governor**

Safeguarding Lead and Family Liaison Officer

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**Miss Carol Duffield**

**Staff Governor**

Deputy Safeguarding and Family Liaison Officer

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I qualified as a teacher in 2000 and have been working at Wilkinson since 2004 initially as a Reception teacher. I progressed to the position of Early Years Coordinator and worked across Foundation and Year 4/5 also taking on a safeguarding role until 2013. Since then I have been the Designated Safeguarding Lead here at Wilkinson and am a member of the Senior Management Team. My role is to ensure that school meets statutory requirements for Child Protection and Safeguarding. My responsibilities include dealing with concerns and disclosures at school, recording and referring where necessary. I work closely with other professionals in order to keep our children safe. This involves compiling reports and attendance at Early Help, Child in Need and Child Protection meetings and conferences representing the views of both school and families. I am also the Designated Lead for our Looked After Children completing Personal Education Plans and leading on meetings as well as reporting progress at LAC reviews. I also coordinate the PTA team and arrange training and events for parents and families. You will find me at the school gate most mornings and I deal with day to day concerns about individual children with specific needs and liaise with parents where necessary.



**Cllr. Lynn Moran**

**Local Authority Governor**  
Safeguarding

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I was elected to the St Peter's Ward of Wolverhampton City Council in 2015. I chose Bilston East in 1995 and have lived there ever since. During the eighties, I was drawn to become a Councillor in Oxfordshire when the County Council at the time threatened to close all the nursery schools. Oxfordshire still has nursery schools and I have been a firm supporter of good Early Years Education ever since.

I retired from the Probation Service a year ago having trained as a social worker. I remain committed to the welfare of women and serve on the Board of the Haven, and Anawim in Birmingham.

I look forward to participating in the life of Wilkinson Primary School.



**Mrs Clare Bratt**

**Parent Governor**

Website, Core Subjects, Curriculum & Assessment

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I have quite a varied working background, spending some years in business managing large business accounts and the last 9 years working as a secondary school teacher in the local community. When I left university, I didn't really know which career path I wanted to follow so I worked in a variety of roles ranging from membership consultant to financial account manager and finally into education.

My daughter is at Wilkinson. She is a happy and confident young individual who is thriving and taking on new experiences every day.

I wanted to become a governor because I feel that if our children are getting the best education and learning experiences now, their futures will look brighter than ever. I feel I can be a fundamental person in ensuring the children at Wilkinson are safe, engaged and challenged to be the best they can be emotionally, socially and academically.





**Miss. Julie Pressdee**

**Community Governor**  
SEND, SMSC

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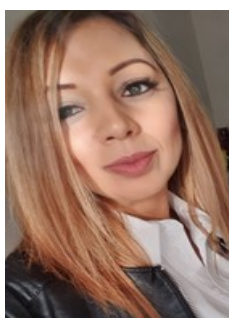
I have been a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for West Midlands Police for 13 years. The last four and a half years of this have been spent working in Bilston. I had a few different jobs prior to joining West Midlands Police, mainly in administrative/customer service roles.

Whilst working as a PCSO in Netherton, Dudley I held a role as a Community Governor at Hillcrest Secondary School (now The Link Academy).

I deal with the Bilston community every working day in one way or another, and know many of the local people, particularly the children very well. I feel I understand the community and their needs and try to support or give help whenever I can.

As part of my role I quite often get asked to go into local Schools to work with the children and give presentations/talks on various topics which may be of concern to the school, or that form part of the curriculum.

Downtime, I love nothing better than to sit and relax with a good film or have a girly night out. I love animals and my dream would be to win the lottery and run an animal rescue centre.



**Ms Reena Lagah**

**Parent Governor**  
Finance

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I am very pleased and honoured at having been elected as Parent School Governor. I am a qualified duty Solicitor and have specialised in Criminal Defence for over 15 years. I now work part time for one of the largest law firms in the United Kingdom.

I have the skills as a Solicitor to get up to speed with governing laws. My experience has also made me conscious of how to manage finances. I believe I can progress the school with careful consideration to school budgeting and expenditure.

I have a child that attends the school, like so many parents I place my trust in the school in providing my child with the necessary skills and education to develop into a successful young adult.

I am a single working parent so can acknowledge the difficulties parents face due to pressures of a working life. I will offer my services and diverse approach to the cohort of Governors.

Being a School Governor will allow me to continue giving back to the community whilst using a platform that will lead a new generation to a happy and successful future.



**Mr Ciaron Hoyo**

**Parent Governor**

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My name is Ciaron Hoyo and I am Deputy Chief Information Officer for a local NHS Organisation. I have applied for the role of Parent Governor as I feel that Wilkinson Primary School is a forward thinking and responsible education provider, that my skills would aid the school in approaching new opportunities and developments.

I have worked in the NHS as a Senior Manager and IT specialist for xx years, during which I have gained extensive knowledge of all manner of public sector organisations. I am a successful bid writer and have secured millions of pounds of funding for the NHS and aligned services whilst in post. I have a good knowledge of subjects such as cyber security, IT solutions, GDPR and safeguarding which I have gained through my work. I have a degree in computer science and electronics, a doctorate in experimental medicine and I am currently studying applied neural networks.

I believe I can apply my skills to assist the school in a variety of areas to continue to provide an exemplary setting for our children to learn and develop. My bid writing experience will allow me to help develop compelling funding applications, my public sector working experience can be used to help communications and collaborations with all other public sector organisations and I have procurement and supplier experience which can be used to help the school obtain the best services and equipment available to them.



**Mr Joseph Pedapudi**

**Parent Governor**

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I was born and raised in India.. I worked in a secondary school for 5 years in India as maths teacher. Then I moved to UK in 2008 and I have achieved level 2 teaching assistant certificate from Cambridge open university. I have worked as volunteer teaching assistant at Prospect Hill infant & Nursery School at Worksop, Nottinghamshire. Then I have started my career as an Adult Nursing Student at Birmingham City University. At present I am working as a staff nurse in Sandwell General Hospital. I would like to be considered as a parent governor for Wilkinson Primary School as I have a strong belief in giving children maximum opportunities to discover full potential through their education.





**NEW GOVERNOR**

**Mrs Reena Lagah**  
**Parent Governor**

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I am a Governance and Regulation Officer for Platform Housing Group, based in Birmingham. Working in Governance has enhanced my skills in risk analysis, review of strategic risks, policy review and implementation of key changes to strategic developments.

I currently work part time whilst taking care of my daughter Arya who is in year two and my 22-month-old son Ayden. I also run my own cake business at the weekends and evenings. So never a dull day in our house!

In the past I have worked voluntarily for Citizens Advice Bureau and Mentoring programme for youth offenders. I believe my skills of collaboration, strategic planning, decision making, and risk management will attribute to the responsibilities of a parent governor role. Working in Governance, I understand the need to plan for policy changes, understanding the best interests of consumers, constructive improvements, effective decision making, risk management and accountability. All of which I believe are necessary to ensuring we continue the success of the school in the years to come.

Joining the governing board would allow me to gain insight and provide constructive feedback to the school's long-term goals. My main priority is to ensure our children have a safe and secure environment to thrive in, so they reach their full potential. I will endeavour to provide a parent's perspective when discussing all matters raised at the board meetings that affect our children's education.

My children's future is of the upmost importance to me, and these are my priorities. I would be grateful to be given the opportunity in also making a difference in the education of not only my children but to the school as a whole

