

**Rick Smith – Chair of Governors**

**When did you join the governing board?**

July 2025

**Why did you become a governor?**

I wanted to use the knowledge and experience I have gained over the years to help my local community and being involved in something that can have a such positive impact on so many people is a powerful motivator for me.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I work as Head of IT, Systems and Data and am part of the Senior Leadership Team at a non-profit Housing Association. I have previously worked in the Education and Social Services Departments of what was Buckinghamshire County Council and in the Housing Department at what was Aylesbury Vale District Council.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I am married with two teenage children, live in Berryfields and help to run Berryfields Youth Club. I am an ex-Vice Chair of the Parish Council and have previously been a governor at Aylesbury Vale Academy.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

The Hobbit: it opened up a whole new magical world.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

History and discovering how our past still affects us today but what first got me interested was learning about Ancient Rome and Greece and the ancient myths about fabled creatures such as the Minotaur, Cyclops, Medusa and Hydra.

**Laura Nunn – Vice Chair & Parent Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

I in 2017, back when the classrooms were in the carpark and the playground was more "aspirational sketch" than reality. It's been a joy to help shape Green Ridge from its very first year.

**Why did you become a governor?**

My children were among the first pupils at the school, and I wanted to help create the kind of school I'd want them to thrive in – inclusive, ambitious, and rooted in the community.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

My background is in the financial sector, with a focus on Learning & Development, where I design and deliver training on topics such as Unconscious Bias, Process Improvement and – the ever-popular – How to Say No and Keep Your Job! For Green Ridge, I've also spent a lot of time and had some success with grant fundraising on behalf of the school.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

I focus on Equality and Diversity, making sure every child feels like they belong – whoever they are and whatever they bring with them. I believe an inclusive school culture lifts everyone.

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I live in Berryfields with my husband, two children and a badly-behaved labradoodle. I set up and run the Green Ridge FareShare food bank, which now helps feed families across our school community every day.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

Growing up, I was obsessed with *Malory Towers* – I must have read them all a dozen times! Reading with my own children, I absolutely loved *The Paper Dolls* by Julia Donaldson – guaranteed to get me every time.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

English. At secondary school I was lucky to have a really inspirational teacher who opened up a world of literature to me, so I absolutely know the positive difference a fantastic teacher can make.

**Judith Glover – Trust Appointed Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

2019

**Why did you become a governor?**

My first line manager as a teacher was a staff governor and I learned a lot about the functions of governance and its ability to direct the strategic vision of a school. When the opportunity arose, I wanted to grasp it to give back to my local community.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I have worked as a secondary teacher for nearly two decades, as a middle and senior leader, so my knowledge and experience of how schools function is useful to share with other school governors.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

I'm the Y5 link governor, and have an interest in SEND.

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I play in a local Aylesbury netball league, I work in The Grange School as a science teacher and I love walking around the Berryfields estate.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

The BFG because it was the first 'big book' I ever read as a page turner and instilled my love for independent reading.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

Science because it is a bit of everything.

**Nathan Robson – Trust Appointed Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

July 2022

**Why did you become a governor?**

I am keen to improve the experience of children in education and ensure they have the best preparation for entering the wider world.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I am an engineer by background and work in healthcare as a clinical scientist and support children and adults with various additional needs to be as functional and able to engage in life as much as possible. As part of my role, I also oversee and develop clinical governance, processes, procedures and am a designated safeguarding lead for my organisation. Outside of work, I am the chair of a charitable organisation that focuses on the professional education and representation of people working in my field. As part of this I have contributed to working with numerous groups to develop policies, procedures and best practice.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

I have overseen the safeguarding element of the LGB's function since joining and have also covered several related aspects such as online safety and looked after children.

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I have a primary school-aged daughter who takes up much of my time, as I am sure can be appreciated! Outside of this I enjoy making things in my workshop, and I participate in historical European martial arts (HEMA) because who doesn't like swords?!

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

My daughter loves reading my old copy of The Python and the Pepperpot with me.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

Physics.

**Karen Southworth – Co-opted Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

Summer term 2024.

**Why did you become a governor?**

I believe in supporting the community around us in whatever way we can. Being a governor is a great way to invest in that community, helping provide an environment where children can grow and become the best versions of themselves possible.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I've worked in Financial Services for 25 years, at the Head Office of a High Street bank, and my role is responsible for the oversight of data used to report to the Bank of England. I work with teams all over the business; it's very methodical and needs a good understanding of regulations; all of which I think will help me in my role as governor.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

Due to my own background, I'm interested in social mobility and how we deliver equity in education to ensure that socioeconomic status isn't a barrier to reaching full potential.

**A little about you personally (E.g. family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I'm very local to the school and have lots of family around Aylesbury. My 2-year-old grandson is a joy, and I look forward to spending time with him as he grows and explores the world around him. I have a few favourite local charities that I help whenever I can, including Aylesbury Foodbank, Florence Nightingale Hospice, and Wheelpower; and I'm definitely a sucker for a pub quiz (although not always very good!).

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett. As a child I loved the idea of having my very own secret place. As an adult, I can appreciate the story about children from very different backgrounds working together to create something magical.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

Maths! I love numbers, which is probably why I've ended up in banking!

**Natashia Cedano – Trust Appointed Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

July 2024.

**Why did you become a governor?**

Because it can be a rewarding way to make a tangible difference in the community while developing valuable skills. Being a governor means representing the interests of parents, staff, and local residents, and ensuring the school meets the needs of the community it serves. For me personally it's about bringing my skills and experience but also gaining leadership and governance experience.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

Professionally, I work as a Macmillan nurse, supporting people and families through some of life's most challenging moments

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

Pupil wellbeing and ensuring that every child, regardless of background or ability, has the opportunity to thrive. I am keen to contribute to policies and initiatives that promote mental health, inclusion, and safeguarding across the school. As a governor, I have a particular interest in promoting literacy across the curriculum, ensuring all pupils have access to engaging books that challenge perspectives, spark curiosity, and develop both academic skills and moral understanding.

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I am a proud mum of two and grandmother to two adorable granddaughters. I'm also a trustee for a cancer charity and enjoy organising fundraising events to make a difference in my community. In my spare time, I love salsa dancing, going to the theatre, and exploring fine dining experiences.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

My favourite childhood book, To Kill a Mockingbird, inspired my lifelong passion for reading and my belief in fairness, empathy, and critical thinking.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

English literature was my favourite subject because of the depth of variations that can be explored.

**Hafsa Sattar – Parent Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

July 2025.

**Why did you become a governor?**

I loved school as a child and deeply valued the positive influence of my teachers. As an adult, I was inspired to give back by becoming a teacher and later a behaviour and attainment counsellor, supporting children who need it most. Serving as a governor now allows me to gain deeper insight into school operations and contribute my skills and experience where they can make the greatest impact.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I founded and managed an Asian fashion business in London before training as a Religious Studies teacher at Oxford University. I have a strong interest in interfaith dialogue and community relations. Now as a parent of two, I run 11+ coaching groups, offer behaviour and attainment counselling for teenagers, and deliver assemblies and guest lessons in schools on Islam as a British Muslim.

**Any particular interests or focus areas as a governor:**

Equality and Diversity

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

Proud North Londoner who now lives in Aylesbury with her husband and two children. Love spending time with family, travelling, and reading and watching LOTR.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

Goodnight Mr Tom: the way Mr Tom overcame his tough and gruff exterior to help a young boy who so needed the love and care of an adult is so beautiful to read.

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

English and Religious Studies – for the love of literature and learning about others around me.

**Lauren Curtis-Cross – Staff Governor**

**When did you join the governing board?**

Initially in May 2021, but was reappointed in May 2025.

**Why did you become a governor?**

To continue to support Green Ridge and contribute in another way, and to help shape the future of the school.

**A short summary of your professional background or skills:**

I have worked at Green Ridge within the admin time since May 2019. In my current role as Office Co-Ordinator I am responsible for administrative systems and processes, and support the Trust with finance, recruitment and payroll from a school level.

**A little about you personally (e.g., family, hobbies, community involvement):**

I have two children aged 10 and 11, both of which attend/ed Green Ridge. As a family we enjoy going on holiday, especially cruises! We have two Persian cats named Boris and Bonnie.

**What's your favourite children's book and why?**

The Supertato series was a firm favourite in our household and something that was initially introduced to my children when they were in Reception at Green Ridge. As a family we enjoyed the different adventures and the many characters - specifically the Evil Pea!

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

IT - I've always enjoyed working on computers and it's been interesting watching them evolve over the years!