

MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Our Governing Body

What is it?

All schools in England have a Governing Body which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school. A key role is to act as a 'critical friend': to support, to challenge, to ask questions, ultimately to represent the school community.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Head teacher, staff and the local authority. Whilst the Head teacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives.

Who are we?

In September 2014 the governing body elected to reconstitute, in keeping with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. We took this decision as it allowed us to change the numbers and types of governors we have and to appoint more people on the basis of the skills they could bring.

The governing body now consists of:

- The Head teacher
- One elected staff governor
- One appointed local authority governor
- Five elected parent governors
- Five co-opted governors

The standard term of office for a governor is four years. The chair and vice-chair are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The chair of governors is Mrs Janet Meek, who can be contacted via the school office.

Much of the work of the governing body is done by 2 termly meetings as well as some smaller committees. At East Rainton Primary, we have the following committees:

- finance
- personnel
- premises
- pupil discipline
- complaints
- selection
- performance management

Read more to find out about our Govenors.

The governing body of East Rainton Primary is currently:

Mrs Janet Meek, Chair of Governing Body

- Co-opted governor from 29.9.12 until January 2017
- Chair of personnel, complaints and finance committees.
- Register of interests: previous LA role

Mr Austin Carney, Vice-Chair of Governing Body

- Co-opted governor from 18.11.14 until 2017

- Sits on the following Committees Finance, premises and selection. He also Chairs the premises committee

Mrs Sara Toole, Headteacher

- Since 01/09/2006, a member of the governing body by virtue of position in school
- Sits on all committees
- Register of interests: Peter Toole sign and design

I gained a B.ed. (Hons.) at Leeds University before moving to the North East in 1990, after been offered a post at Richard Avenue Primary School, Sunderland. I moved on to Belmont Infant school to take up the position of Deputy Head teacher in April 1998. From there I moved to Gilesgate Primary School to gain a broader experience as a Deputy Head teacher. Finally moving to East Rainton Primary in September 2006 to become the first female Head teacher of this school. I have worked in a wide range of school in terms of size, location and catchment. During my teaching experience I have taught across the whole range from Nursery to year 6 as well as holding a range of coordinator roles. My area of interest during my studies was Religious education and multicultural education. I wrote my dissertation on the National Curriculum helping to provide structure for children from the traveler community.

My passion is sport as children can develop in all aspects through opportunities sport can provide.

Mrs Margerat Curry, Staff Governor

- Elected staff governor 1/1/14
- Register of interests: none

"I am a staff governor, currently the Year 4 class teacher. I joined East Rainton Primary School as a newly-qualified teacher (NQT) in September 2014, after completing a Post-Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) at University.

Mrs Tara Hackett

- Parent governor from 22.4.14
- Register of interests: none
- Length of appointment: 4 years

"I was a parent governor of a child in Year 3.

Mr Russel Hellens

- Co-opted Governor from 18.11.14
- Husband of Mrs Hellens (class teacher)
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

"I am married to Mrs Hellens, class teacher and both my children have attended this school and are now at Kepier School. As a local business man I am able to provide support to the school with finance.

Mrs Beverly Parker

- Co-opted governor 18.11.14
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

"I have been a parent governor at East Rainton Primary School although both my children now attend Hetton Comprehensive school. I work at a local secondary school within an administration role but previously I worked for school and governor support.

Literacy Link governor

Member of Premises committee, personel appeals committee and performance management Governor.

I have been a governor at East rainton Primary for over 9 years. I was a parent governor whilst my two children were at the school and more recently when my children have left the school to go to secondary, I have taken on a Co-opted Governor role. I am link governor for literacy and a member of the premises committee and personnel appeals committee. Whilst my children attended East Rainton Primary I enjoyed being involved in helping to raise funds for the school. I am employed in a large secondary school as the Administration and Health and Safety Manager.

Mrs Adele Burlinson

- Parent governor from 27.1.15
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

I am a parent governor of a child in Year 3. Sits on the personnel appeals committee

"I am a married mam and have two girls, both of whom attend East Rainton Primary School. I am very passionate about the education of all our children. I am a 'Billing Officer' for the City of Sunderland Council where I have worked for the past 19 years. During my time with the local government I have gained numerous NVQ's and IRRV (Institute of Revenues and Rateable Valuations) qualifications. I am a registered First Aider and am heart defibrillator qualified. I have represented the Council in various campaigns and joint working mixing with both internal and external company."

Mr Graeme Cox

- Parent governor from 27.1.15
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

"I have been a parent governor since January 2015, and my son attends East Rainton Primary School.

"I am a 43 year old father of two, with my eldest son currently in year 2 of East Rainton Primary. I am in a management role within a large multinational pharmaceutical company and I became governor of the school as I recognised the importance of the role that my sister fulfilled as a parent governor during the time her children attended the school.

Just like every other parent at East Rainton Primary School, I want the very best for my children. I want them to be happy, confident and achieve to the best of their potential. As parents we need to support the school, but when necessary we should ensure we ask the right questions to keep the school moving forward and improving. During my career I have been through many difficult and challenging situations, including external audits which will allow me to utilise my skills and knowledge

to help to ask the right questions to ensure we are improving and raising standards. I believe there is nothing more important than our children.

East Rainton Primary School is a fantastic local school and just like every other parent, I want it to continue to succeed and improve further. I believe the role of parent governor is a big responsibility and I would like to take the opportunity whilst I am on the governing body, to assist the school so that it continues to deliver a high quality, broad education for all."

Mrs Sharon Wallace

- Co-opted since 9.3.15
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

I am Co-opted Governor and have been since March 2015. My background is in education and I have 22 years experience of working in this sector. I specialise in quality assurance of training programmes.

I have previously had the role of parent Governor and have carried out classroom observations and interviews.

By working as part of the Governor's team, means we can all share in the vision of school improvement. As Governors we can monitor and evaluate how well progress is being made against the school improvement plan.

On my day off I attend the school as a reader for Year 4 and enjoy listening to the children read and seeing how well they progress with their literacy skills during the year.

Mr David Martyn

- Parent governor from 5.5.17
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests:none

Miss Gemma Cooke

- Parent governor from 5.5.17
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

Mr Roger Grant

- Co-opted governor from 16.11.17
- Length of appointment: 4 years
- Register of interests: none

Governor attendance at meeting across 2016/17

Name	1 st term	2 nd term	1 st term	2 nd term	1 st term	2 nd term	Finance 1	Finance 2	Finance 3	Premises	personnel	Complaints
S Toole	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	N/A
J Meek	yes	X	yes	yes	yes	yes	X	yes	yes	N/A	Yes	yes
A Carney	X	Yes	X	Yes	X	yes	yes	yes	yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
T Hackett	yes	X	yes	X	yes	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
R Hellens	X	yes	yes	X	yes	yes	yes	yes	X	yes	N/A	N/A
B Parker	X	yes	yes	yes	X	yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
G Cox	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	X	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A
S Wallace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
M Curry	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

K Hind		X		X		No longer on the governing body			
J Cummings		X		X		X		No longer on the governing body	
F Robson	X	yes	No longer on the governing body	yes					