















Governor Biographies



<p>Sarah Bertram Parent Governor</p>	<p>Sarah has two children currently at Bishop Stopford School, in Years 11 and 7, and is actively involved in children's sporting clubs outside of school within the Kettering area. Sarah attended Bishop Stopford School, going on to do A levels and a BSc Criminology degree at Teesside University. She has 22 years' service working in Northamptonshire focusing on safeguarding children and protecting the most vulnerable</p>
<p>Stephen Brading Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Stephen is married with four children. The youngest currently attends our school. A governor since 2019, he now chairs the Pastoral, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee. Stephen is the marketing and communications director for a UK based professional membership body and a chartered member of the Institute of Marketing. He has experience within a wide range of commercial organisations and has recently been working on a project linked to improving engagement with STEM for children and adults. Previously, Stephen was Chair for a Scout group and is involved with his local church. With a busy family life, Stephen still finds time to play badminton and cycle and has recently become a grandparent for the first time.</p>
<p>Alun Davies Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Alun chairs the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – a crucial role for the governing body. He has a degree in mathematics and is a chartered accountant, so is well placed to do so. Having worked for various investment banks in the City of London, Alun set up his own accountancy business and has been running this since 2013. He has been a governor at a primary school in London and more recently at a village primary school in Northamptonshire as well as being a Responsible Officer at our school prior to becoming a governor. Alun is married with three children. In his spare time, he likes to relax with his family.</p>
<p>Chris Davis Parent Governor</p> 	<p>Chris is married and has twin daughters at our school. She was appointed as a parent governor in 2024. Chris has a background in science and started her career in Research & Development in a global agrochemical company. She continued in a major global pharmaceutical company, working for 21 years in a progression of Quality Assurance, Compliance Management and Governance roles. Once her twins were at school, Chris became involved in other aspects of governance with NHS England as a lay representative on Performance Advisory Groups and as a school governor. She served her local CE village primary school for 11 years - 8 ½ as Chair. Whilst there, Chris established a Prayer Space which she continues to organise and lead with a small team of volunteers, encouraging links between the school and the local parish church where she is a member. Chris enjoys spending time with her family and reading, walking and exploring the UK's history and heritage.</p>
<p>Claire Ette Staff Governor</p> 	<p>Claire joined the Inclusion Team at Bishop Stopford School in 2009. She has a full and varied role, which includes deployment of TA's, teaching, supporting students in-class, small group interventions, together with administration for access arrangements. Claire enjoys working as part of a successful team, that strives to ensure all students have the opportunity to unlock their unique potential. Outside of work Claire is active in her local church, where she serves as an Elder and Church Secretary. Amazingly she is also an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher. In her spare time Claire enjoys cooking, gardening, socialising, and relaxing with family and friends. Both Claire's daughter's attended Bishop Stopford and she is delighted to have this opportunity to give something back, following their positive and successful time here.</p>

<p>Clare Holden Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Clare has a background in HR management in the NHS and currently supports her vicar as the benefice administrator in addition to other volunteer commitments. She was previously a governor at her village primary school for 16 years, 8 of those as chair.</p> <p>Clare is married, with two children, both former Bishop students who are going into their final and second years at university. In her spare time she enjoys exercise, particularly walking and swimming and textiles.</p>
<p>Catherine Hopkins Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Catherine worked in the finance sector - for NatWest Bank for approximately 25 years both in local branches and in the Commercial Office in Northampton before leaving to have her family.</p> <p>Catherine is currently a teaching assistant at a local primary school where she has been for 6 years, so has a great overview of the transition from the primary to the secondary phase – both pastorally and in terms of the curriculum too.</p> <p>She has been involved in scouting in Kettering for 30 years and is Treasurer for a local scout groups, so is very familiar with volunteering on a number of fronts! Catherine currently has a son at the school.</p>
<p>Tom Joyner Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Tom is married with three children and has lived in Northamptonshire for over 20 years. He has recently joined the governing body, bringing a wealth of experience from the commercial sector.</p> <p>He has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Bayes Business School, City University, London.</p>
<p>Dalbir Khangura Community Governor</p> 	<p>Dalbir works in the higher education sector and has done so since 2004. She is a qualified chartered accountant that moved into academic teaching and management positions. Her teaching specialism is Financial Reporting and has actively been involved in supporting the students in placements and graduate outcomes. She has moved into senior management positions at the University of Northampton and is keen to add value to the board in areas of learning & teaching and the student experience.</p> <p>Prior work experiences include working as a management accountant for a number of SMEs where roles included financial analysis and interpretation.</p> <p>Dalbir currently has children that attend the school.</p>
<p>Rob King Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Rob has over 30 years' experience in secondary schools, having taught in four different schools in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes. He has strong connections with the school as he was previously a senior leader with oversight of all pastoral work in the school. He worked at the school for nearly twenty years before retiring in 2024. He has two grown up children who are both former students.</p> <p>He has served on the PCCs of two local churches and is vice chair of his local village council.</p>
<p>Richard Main MBE Community Governor</p> 	<p>Richard joined the governors in 2022. He has taken on the role of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities governor, using his wide expertise to support leadership in this area. His specialist skills and knowledge are very much appreciated.</p> <p>As a result of his own learning difficulties and recognising the lack of provision for adults with SEND, he co-founded The Cascade</p>

<p>Stuart Ross Foundation Governor</p> 	<p>Stuart is married with one son, a student at Bishop Stopford Sixth Form. Stuart's background is in the Information Technology sector. Formerly a free-lance consultant for over 15 years, he has been working in the Early Years Education sector for Bright Horizons Family Solutions for the last 8 years – an international business.</p> <p>Stuart has been a governor at Bishop Stopford School for over 5 years, utilising his knowledge from numerous business sectors and his IT skills in his role as governor. During his spare time, Stuart is a keen cyclist and also enjoys watching his son participate in sports (mainly football).</p>
<p>Jill Silverthorne Headteacher</p> 	<p>Jill began her teaching career in the sixth form sector in Leicestershire before moving into the secondary sector at Bishop Stopford School. After several promotions, she became Headteacher in 2018.</p> <p>Being from a disadvantaged background herself, Jill is committed to providing an education which enables all young people to see the life-changing value of education.</p> <p>Jill loves leading a Church of England school where Christian values underpin the strategic direction and day to day life of the school.</p> <p>She enjoys the arts and relaxes with some very amateur piano playing! She also helps to lead a women's ministry team in her church.</p>
<p>Julian White Staff Governor</p> 	<p>Julian has worked at Bishop Stopford School since September 2000. He was initially appointed as a teacher of science, but he now regularly teaches in three different Faculty areas.</p> <p>Julian is Whole School Data Lead, spending significant time supporting all subject areas in school and ensuring many Department for Education requirements are met. His responsibilities include analysing student progress and producing the school timetable – not the easiest of tasks! Julian has previous experience in primary school governance where he served as Vice Chair. He currently has two children who attend the school.</p>
<p>Brian Withington Foundation Governor and Chair of Governors</p> 	<p>Brian's career was in the Probation Service. Alongside this, he was ordained in 1997 and then moved into full-time ministry in 2004 after a spell as Assistant Chief Probation Officer in London and Head of Training and Development.</p> <p>Brian was Rural Dean of Kettering until 2017. He has served as governor and Chair of Governors in a special and a primary school.</p> <p>Now semi-retired, Brian acts as an outsourced Panel Secretary for the Church of England's Ministry Division and is a Trustee of Glasallt Fawr, a residential community for adults with learning disabilities in South Wales where his eldest daughter resides. His other interests include walking the Lakeland fells, cricket, and trying to keep up with three grandsons!</p>