

## **Governors pen portraits:**



### **Andrew Gibson – Chair of Governors**

I have been a governor at Byley since my eldest child joined the school in 1998, initially as a Parent Governor but now as a Community Governor. I am pleased to say that all three of my children attended the school.

I am proud to serve as Chair of Governors and hope my experience adds to the strong leadership and governance team the school has. I work in Manchester as a solicitor specialising in employment and education law, and bring what I can from that role to help in the governance of the school. I am also currently Chair of Governors at Middlewich High School and consider the strong links the school has with the local High School to be a real strength.

### **Elizabeth Whittingham – Head Teacher**

I qualified as a teacher in 1992. After five years of working through the whole primary age range at a school in Reading, I took some time out to have my 3 children. However, I did continue with supply teaching in Reading and then in Cheshire when I moved here in 1999.

Having been a parent, teacher and part of the Senior Leadership Team at Hermitage Primary School in Holmes Chapel for the last 18 years, I feel so privileged to be now taking on my first Headship at Byley Primary School and Nursery.

By providing a safe, happy, stimulating and engaging learning environment, I believe that children are inspired to be the very best that they can be. The needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within a school. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I understand how vital working in partnership with parents is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience.

You can be assured that, as the Head Teacher, I will strive to ensure that your children are safe and happy at school and that their learning experiences are exciting, creative and meaningful.

### **John Beecroft – Co-opted Governor**

I moved to Byley in 2000 and feel passionately about our small village, being the current Parish Chairman. We regard the heart of the village as the School, St John's Church, the Village Hall and more recently Lowes Farm Shop.

An Engineering Degree and Certificate in Finance & Accountancy helped me develop my career to running a \$100m multinational Food Engineering division of an Italian company.

I try to bring some of this experience to the various aspects of being a governor of Byley Primary School. As governor with responsibility for Mathematics and English I am particularly interested in securing and developing the basic skills in these subjects across and through the wider curriculum.

Developing and maintaining our traditional small country school is our most important objective.

### **Debbie Brain – LA Governor**

Before becoming the LA Governor, I was a Parent Governor here at Byley Primary School for over 15 years, beginning as my first child joined the school. I am currently the Business Manager and Safeguarding Co-Ordinator at a local charitable Pre-School and, as such, have a great interest in Early Years Provision and all pastoral elements of school life. Our community based School here at Byley prides itself on a caring, supportive and inclusive ethos that I am extremely proud to be a part of.

### **Stacey Ashton – Parent Governor**

As a parent of 2 children in Byley Primary School, I was pleased to have the opportunity to be involved with the running of the school as a Parent Governor. I work for myself which gives me the flexibility to be able to attend meetings and come into school to see the children and staff in action. Although I have no adult experience in a teaching environment, I am keen to learn about the education system and the role of governor, and use this to help shape the future of the school. My focus as a mother is not only to help my children learn academically, but also to develop into well rounded adults with life skills that will set them up for their futures, and I aim to bring this outlook with me to the governing body.

### **Eamonn Smith – Co-opted Governor**

I have worked as the Caretaker at Byley school for last 3 years now. I have numerous responsibilities ranging from identifying current and future maintenance issues through to the general upkeep and cleaning of the building.

My background is in the building trade which has its advantages in the role of caretaker. Byley is a very small school where staff and children are part of a happy and close working environment. Being a governor is giving me an opportunity to help with the growth and development of this school which I am proud to be part of.

### **Nigel Richmond – Co-opted Governor**

I was born in Hampshire but have lived in Holmes Chapel since 1988. I have three children who all attended Holmes Chapel Primary School. I now have 5 grandchildren all attending primary/nursery schools.

I have been a keen sportsman over the years playing many sports and coaching football at a junior level. I have also organized regular sporting activities as fund raising exercises for Francis House Children's Hospice.

I was also part of a school tour to Zimbabwe in 1997 to play football and rugby against various schools across the country, including equipping those schools with essential educational and sporting equipment.

I am a qualified accountant having spent my career in operational corporate roles. I am currently Executive Chairman of 3 companies involved in the manufacture and supply of fire performance products to the construction industry in the healthcare and education sector as well as being a Trustee/Director of a Housing Charity based in Poynton.

I have been on many boards that have had a multitude of constitutions. This has necessitated the development of interpersonal and communication skills. I feel these would be of benefit, but I would hope that my business skills, particularly my financial acumen, would prove particularly beneficial to the role of

**Vicky Whiston – Parent Governor**

I am delighted to join the governing body at Byley Primary School as a Parent Governor. Our eldest daughter, Clairra, has recently joined the school in Reception. I work for Cheshire East Council teaching at a larger than average primary school in Crewe. My professional responsibilities include EYFS Leader, SENDCO and Looked After Children (LAC) Designated Teacher. I believe in nurturing environments for children to learn as individuals, I am passionate about the early years. I look forward to contributing to the governing body at Byley to help to ensure our lovely school continues to grow and move forward.