

The Governors

We are lucky to have an active and effective Governing Board at Summerfields. Below are short biographies of our current board:

Tony Murphy – Co-opted Governor & Chair of Governors

Hi, I'm Tony Murphy. I have had three very happy children pass through Summerfields Primary. I've been running the under 11 school football team here since 2011 and also enjoy taking assemblies as part of my role as Minister at Church on the Roundabout.

I also worked for 19 years as a science teacher at Sandown High (as it was then), so given my links to Island education and the local community, it seemed a logical step to become a school governor in September 2014.

I can be contacted in writing via the school.

Melanie Gartell – Headteacher

I am now in my 2nd year of Headship following on from 25 years' experience progressing from being a Class Teacher through to leadership responsibilities. I joined Summerfields having had three positions as a Deputy Head in two Island schools and one mainland school. I always wanted to teach and feel I have been in a very privileged position in being able to do so. Returning to the Island and Island education as a leader in the last 9 years has brought its own rewards. I enjoy working with the governors at Summerfields as we are an enthusiastic and committed team. My particular curriculum passions are maths, phonics, music and PE.

I have one son and a stepson. I also enjoy exercising and playing sport. I am a keen Southampton FC fan and I love spending time with my family and friends. My approach to having the responsibility of headship is based on taking a whole child perspective to secure positive emotional health and well-being and working in partnership with parents to support the most effective learning experience. Children and everyone in the whole school community being the best they can be is what drives me. I love my job!

Catriona Mason – Co-opted Governor

Having taught for 23 years at Harestock Primary School in Winchester, with responsibilities for physical education, Early Years and inducting reception children, I was forced to retire on medical grounds. I became a parent governor at my daughter's school to use my education experience in retirement and after 4 years my husband and me moved to the Isle of Wight. I wanted again to use my education experience as a governor and looked around for an appropriate place. I applied for a governor position at Summerfields, have enjoyed my time as a governor and feel I am contributing to the school community.

Mick Pye - Local Authority (LA) Governor

I have lived in Ventnor for over 20 years, with my wife, a nurse, and my two daughters went to Island state schools. I started a career in secondary school teaching, rising to Head of School. I then trained as an Ofsted Additional Inspector and became self-employed. Since then, I have been involved in hundreds of primary and secondary inspections – some on the Island. Through my business I have not only led inspections but also school reviews, school improvement work, training staff and acting as an LA advisor for a number of West London primary schools.

I feel that this in-depth experience of school improvement work can be of benefit to Summerfields Primary at this time. I feel very strongly about the importance of primary education for children and have a deep belief that these pupils deserve the best. I was appointed Local Authority Governor at Summerfields in 2020 and am now Safeguarding Governor for the school.

Kelly Goring – Co-opted Governor

Kimberley Simmonds – Co-opted Governor

My Summerfields Journey started 14 years ago when my husband and I moved to the area. We had two children who attend Summerfields. When my daughter, who is now in year 6, started in reception I volunteered to listen to readers which was so rewarding. Within that year I heard about the amazing events 'Friends of Summerfields' organised so I got involved. I became a member of 'Friends' and love helping organise events and clubs for children to enjoy. Volunteering within the school environment made me realise that this was my destined career path and applied for a Learning Support Assistant Role. I joined in September 2019 in year 3 and I am now working as a Teaching Assistant in year 4. I am passionate about Summerfields and its beliefs. I co-opted in as a governor from 'Friends' in the hope I can bring my Parent, Staff and fundraising skills to help drive our school to the best it can be.

Melanie Vine – Staff Governor

Emily Waters – Parent Governor

Carol Bray – Co-opted Governor

Alison Starnes – Clerk to the Governing Board

I am an Islander by birth and education, with a degree in English Literature from the University of Wales. I am passionate about education and training and the opportunities it can deliver, especially when it comes to helping all young people achieve their potential and get the best outcomes in life.

My background is as a professional administrator with extensive experience in local government and tourism fields. I began working as a Clerk to Governors in March 2014 and find the work both challenging and rewarding. My role involves giving legislative and procedural advice to Governors as well as preparing for and minuting meetings and carrying out necessary admin tasks. I currently clerk for four governing boards across the Island, and commenced my role as Clerk to Summerfields GB in April 2020.

I have been a violinist in the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra for over 25 years, and also have experience of working in the voluntary sector. I am also a keen Portsmouth FC fan.

My two great-nieces attend another Island primary school and I am delighted to be able to contribute as part of the team at Summerfields, ensuring that governance continues to support school leaders and staff in delivering high quality education for all children, regardless of background and learning abilities.

Co-opted – 1 vacancy

Parent – 1 vacancy

If you are interested in finding out more about our co-opted and parent governor vacancies, please contact the Clerk via the school office.