

Governor profiles

Lin Stephenson

I have thirty eight years' experience in teaching in the primary sector, including thirteen years as Head Teacher of Hatfield Broad Oak Church of England School. I started my career as a Reception teacher in Leicestershire before spending twenty five years in Hampshire where I was a Deputy Head of a large primary school with over four hundred pupils. Since retiring four years ago I have taken on a number of volunteer roles including being an education volunteer at Audley End House. I also have a keen interest in textile art and continue to work on various projects when time allows. My grandson recently started at Debden School.

Jo Grandfield

“As well as being mum to two boys, one of whom is at our school whilst the other is at Debden preschool, I am a family lawyer who works in London and Cambridge. We moved to the area 18 months ago, since when the family has been embedding itself in what is a thriving school and village community. Since becoming a co-opted governor, I have been struck by the huge potential within our school and am privileged to be able to work to support the school in becoming the best that it can be so as to enable our children to achieve all that they can.”

Andrew Armour

I am a parent governor for the school. We moved to Debden five and a half years ago and we have four children at the school all of whom are enjoying life at the school. I am a Chartered Accountant and currently work with a number of small and medium sized businesses as their part-time Finance Director. We are currently renovating our house in Debden and are very much enjoying being part of the village. I am also involved in training junior rugby and cricket for the Wenden's Ambo Rugby/Cricket clubs.

John Saxon

I am married to Dawn and we have four grown up children. We have recently moved to the village for me to take up the post of Assistant Curate at St Mary's, Saffron Walden, with a focus of ministry in Debden and Wimbish parishes. Previously I was a teacher in primary education moving to special needs education for the last eight years and managing the college department in a school for pupils with severe learning difficulties. I have been a governor in different schools for most of my teaching career and am very happy to continue working as a governor for Debden Academy to help provide the best education and experience possible for the children in our care. I am pleased to be able to support the Christian ethos of the school and to strengthen the links between the church and the school.

Melissa Challinor

I joined as PCC governor ; I wanted to continue contributing to village life following three years as joint editor of the Parish Pump. I have lived in Debden for just over ten years, and with a young son this seemed a sensible and valuable way to volunteer in the community. I gained a BSc honours degree and Masters degree in Equine Science at Writtle College, part of University of Essex and horses still remain my hobby. I have also completed a Masters level professional qualification in Human Resources with the CIPD and hold British Psychological Society Level B accreditation for assessing personality in the workplace. My role at Which? provided me with practical HR experience and a deep understanding of learning needs and developing people which is relevant for being a school governor. I am now Business Manager at Furneux Pelham School.