

Governors Profiles

Claire Singleton – Chair of Governors

My name is Claire Singleton and I became a governor at Mead Road in February 2015 and stayed on when the school converted to an academy in September 2015. I was elected as chair of governors in March 2016.

I came to live in the Bromley area in 1978 and subsequently qualified as a solicitor. I specialised in employment law and, in time, took on the roles of staff partner and managing partner. During the course of my career, I advised and worked with a wide range of clients including small and large businesses, charities and educational establishments. I retired in April 2015. I am a longstanding governor at Coopers where I started as a parent governor. I am currently vice chair of the governing body and chair a number of committees.

During my spare time, I sing in a local choir, enjoy walking and spending time with my granddaughter.

As chair of governors at Mead Road I want to help the school continue to flourish and provide a great education in a happy environment for local children.

Anna D'Cruze Howarth. I am a Co-opted Governor

I currently have one child at Mead Road in Year 2 and another child that has completed 3 years and has moved on. I wanted to be greater involved in the school, being a governor seemed the best possible way.

I trained as a teacher 14 years ago, qualified as Advanced Skill teacher 8 years ago. Recently, I have led on teaching & learning and quality assurance as an Assistant Principal at a large local 4-18 Academy. The skills and knowledge I have developed in my role as a teacher are obviously transferable to the context of being a governor for Mead Road School.

Outside of work, I am a keen sports woman, more watching now than participating. We love spending time as a family on the beach on the South Coast.

In becoming a governor, I am able to combine my passion for education, whilst quality assuring and influencing what I believe to be the best for this community. The single most important aspect of any school has to be its children and I want to be able to play a part in ensuring they receive the very best opportunities to be able to improve their own life chances through education.

Helen Spear – Parent Governor

My name is Helen Spear and I am very pleased to be a parent Governor at Mead Road School. I have one daughter currently in the Owls class and have lived in Chislehurst since 2002. I have been a primary school teacher since 1992 -initially in New Zealand where I grew up - before moving to the UK in 1997. I first taught in and around Peckham and the Elephant and Castle before finally settling in my current school in Dartford. I currently work in a Year 3 classroom as one half of a job share and am Key Stage 2 manager and Science coordinator. I am now in my 16th year there and have gained a wealth of knowledge and understanding about primary education and the challenges that face schools and their pupils in education today.

I hope to bring my experience and enthusiasm to the Governing Body of Mead Road.

Sarah Wilkins – Parent Governor

I feel very privileged to have been selected as one of the parent governors at Mead Road Infant School. I feel passionate about children getting the best education possible - learning lots, experiencing wonder, making friends and having fun! We are fortunate enough to have both of our

girls here, who are both extremely happy at the school.

I work part time at Accenture, which is a management consultancy. So day to day I help businesses to work out how they can improve their business. I mainly work in an area called 'Talent & Organisation' particularly helping them with their 'Leadership Capability' and 'Talent Strategies'. That basically means, working with senior leadership to enable them to build teams, skills, morale and much more. I am also passionate about Inclusion & Diversity. I am Accenture's lead across our Financial Services business in Europe, so I hope to be able to use that experience to ensure we are looking after every child in an inclusive way, to ensure that they reach their fullest potential.

Outside of work, being a mum & wife and generally juggling life, I love building/renovating houses, skiing and travelling.

Christy Billetop – Staff Governor

My name is Christy Billetop and this is my second year as a reception teacher at Mead Road Infant School. Prior to working at Mead Road I was teaching in key stage one for four years at a dynamic, multi-cultural and creative primary school in Peckham. I qualified as a teacher back in 2011 and to this day still believe that every child matters. The joy of watching each individual child grow and succeed in their own right is what drives me to this day to be the best teacher I can and it the reason I put myself forward to become a governor. With the knowledge and experience I have gained in my career so far I hope to work as part of a team to build on the foundations of what is already a brilliant school, to make sure the children here get everything they need to support and nurture their learning.

Helen Charman – Staff Governor

I am very proud to be a Governor of Mead Road by virtue of by role as Head of School.

I have taught and held leadership positions, including as a Staff Governor, in a number of schools in Greenwich and Bexley before joining Mead Road in 2014 as Deputy Head.

I firmly believe that the key to providing the outstanding educational experience we want for our children lies, in the first instance, with the school leadership team (which includes the Governing Body). As Governors we work together to be critical friends, positive challengers and passionate partners to Mead Road Infant School.

I have two children, Oliver and Lucie, who are twins aged 12. They attend Coopers, currently in Year 8. Spare time is best when spent with them and my wider family. I also love to read, cook, enjoy the countryside and travel in Europe, where I try to refresh my (once fluent but fading fast) language skills in French and German.

Susan Johnson – Clerk to the Governing Body

My name is Susan Johnson and I am the clerk for the Governing Body at Mead Road.

I grew up locally, live in Chislehurst (outside the Mead Road catchment unfortunately) and have two young boys who are in reception and year 3 at another school.

Prior to becoming a Mum my experience included 7 years in the City as administrator to the sales team of the leasing arm of an investment bank (leasing £20m of IT to Rover Group annually). Following redundancy I worked for 6 years for The Serious Fraud Office coordinating investigation teams (police, lawyers & accountants) and being responsible for evidence and witnesses once fraud cases reached court.

I am enjoying doing my bit to assist in the governance of Mead Road where I can.