

Governor Profiles 2021-2022

Ian Bratley

I have been a Foundation Governor at St Richard's since 2013 and my daughter completed her final year here in 2017. I work in the ICT industry and have a background in many aspects of business, which I have utilised in assisting the school to achieve their aims and aspirations, and I am also a regular parishioner and Sacristan at St Joachim's in Eastbourne. I am passionate about the school giving every child the best opportunity for their future career, personal development and spiritual well-being and have committed to continue my support for a further term of four years.

Glenn Clark

My name is Glenn Clark. I was the Staff Governor for 8 years and am currently an Associate Governor at St Richard's Catholic College. I have lived in Bexhill for 41 years, am married with two grown up children and was a teacher for 38 years. I had the privilege of teaching at St Richard's for 20 years. My daughter and son attended St Richard's. Both loved it and I am very grateful for the start our wonderful school gave them. My main role as a Governor is to help the Governing body understand all the data associated with modern school life. I am also the Governor overseeing Pupil Premium (PP) and at the moment link with the Maths department.

Sarah Ellis

I am pleased to be appointed as the Local Authority Governor at St Richard's. Both of my daughters were pupils at the school and have gone on to university. Up until 2016 I was a police officer making frequent visits to the school in my role as Schools Liaison Officer. Due to my links with the school, I am aware of the good work done by the staff. I also know how much support staff gave to my daughters enabling them to achieve great GCSE results. In my role as governor I aim to support the school in maintaining its good status.

Simon Hamilton-Burns

I am parent of two St Richards' children, who left the school in 2016 and 2018. I was a Foundation Governor at St Mary Magdalene's Primary School for 4 years. I am a Graduate Mechanical Engineer (BSc. Sussex U.) with over 35 years' experience in the IT industry during which I was European General Manager of a software company for 12 years. I am a qualified maths teacher and I have taught in East Sussex Secondary Schools for over 10 years. I was elected to serve both the school and parents as a Parent Governor 2015 and then invited to be a Foundation Governor in 2018. I am committed to children's learning in the area and the high standards, both pastoral and educational, that St Richard's provides.

Alison Horan

I am a Foundation Governor and currently Chair of Governors. I have two grandchildren at St Richard's. I was previously Chair of Governors at a Catholic primary school elsewhere in East Sussex, where I completed the national Chair of Governors Leadership Development programme. Originally trained as a primary school teacher, I am now retired but worked for East Sussex County Council for many years as a manager within social care and in corporate policy and partnerships. I have an interest in education and am honoured to be involved in the Governance of St Richard's.

Richard Parker-Harding

I have been a Foundation Governor since 2009, my two sons having attended the school. I am a Senior officer at Rother and Wealden Councils and have expertise in general management, finance and health and safety. It is very rewarding to be part of the St Richard's community and to support and challenge the school to maintain its educational standards and ethos.

Kay Parkin

I was pleased to be appointed as a Foundation Governor in February 2018, having been a former parent and now a grandparent to a pupil at the College. I serve on the Full Governing Body and as Chair of the Strategic Organisation Committee. Before I retired in 2016, I worked as the Head of Finance and Human Resources at a local non-maintained Special School for 18 years managing a large budget and providing HR for up to 300 staff. It is this knowledge that I hope will be useful to St Richard's.

Lindsey Wilson

I was pleased to be appointed as a Foundation Governor at St Richard's. I was a secondary school teacher for 15 years and Head of Department at Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells. Having moved to the Bexhill area on retirement, I was delighted to witness the ethos of St Richard's with its high aspirations spiritually, academically and in pastoral care. My aim is to support the school with my knowledge and experience gained both as a teacher and parent of four children.

Clifford Hayes

I was elected to be a Parent Governor in 2018 and have one child at the school. The role enables me to participate in Governor meetings, observing and commenting on the college from a parent's perspective. My role also includes linking with the school's Careers and Art departments, allowing me to question and report on how pupils are educated in these fields and how they are prepared for life beyond St Richard's. I have also given a couple of talks to pupils on design, creative writing and writing CVs. Outside of school, I run a local freelance graphic design company, mainly for the academic sector. In my spare time, I write books for children, and hold writing workshops for schools.

Amber Richardson

I was delighted to be appointed as a Parent Governor in 2018. I have four children, three of which are currently at St Richard's, and one that left a few years ago. I am a link Governor for the English Department and for Pupil Wellbeing. I have been involved in Education for the last 35 years.

Nina Siddall-Ward

Nina Siddall-Ward is a motivational and educational consultant; she is very active in research and consultancy working with schools and colleges throughout the UK. She is also commissioned as an expert writer by the *Key for School Leaders and Governors* and provides national conferences and consultancy for *Osiris Education*. Her extensive career includes the role of Head of Standards and Learning Effectiveness (0-11) for East Sussex Children's Services Authority (2003 -2011); prior to fulfilling this senior local authority role she was a Primary Headteacher in three schools and taught across a range of schools. In 2003 she became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was actively engaged in a local RSA project for young entrepreneurs. Nina is currently a trustee for two local charities. Her charisma, experience and enthusiasm have enabled her to deliver positive change for children in a wide range of organisations. Nina has a long and supportive association with St Richard's as her three stepsons were very successful pupils here.

Fr Simon Dray

As the parish priest of Bexhill, I represent the clergy of the Eastbourne & St Leonards Deanery. The school is a much loved and valued part of our parish families and we aim to support the prayer, formation and mission of the school and also to support the provision of chaplaincy which looks to foster the spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral development of every pupil, whose dignity as a child of God is of paramount importance in forming intentional disciples of Jesus Christ.

Alex Mthobi

I am a parishioner at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne. I am chairperson of the Newman Association circle of Eastbourne and Bexhill and also a member of the national board, where I am the nominated representative to various international groups.

I have an Honours degree in Social Sciences, Post Graduate Diplomas in Law, Forced Migration Studies and Human Rights. I also have a MBA an MSC and a Masters in Law (LLM); I am currently undertaking International Human Rights Law. I have been a Manager in a number of Local Authorities in England and a front line practitioner in Safeguarding as well as having been a Family Court Advisor in the courts in Sussex.

I have wide experience as a practice educator, external examiner and business motivational speaker and I am very interested in personal development for pupils and professionals. Two of my Godsons attended St Richards. It is an honour to have been appointed by the Bishop as a Foundation Governor of an outstanding school.

Mark Weeks-Pearson FCA

I am an Accountant and one of the Directors of Ashdown Hurrey, a local firm of Accountants and Business Advisors, so I hope to use my background in finance and running a business to help contribute towards my role as a Governor. I have two children at the school and have enjoyed working with a number of local schools over the last ten years volunteering with Young Enterprise and more recently as an Enterprise Advisor assisting with Careers Programmes for students.