

## THE FEDERATION OF LOWER HALSTOW AND NEWINGTON CEP SCHOOLS

### MEET THE GOVERNORS

Chair of Governors: PETER  
MARSHALL

Local Authority Governor



During my time as both a Governor and Chair of Governors, I have seen many changes in the way the Governing Body operates. Governors are now more involved in holding the school to account through, for example, challenging the Headteacher by taking on the role of a critical friend and setting performance management targets which will further raise standards, monitoring pupil progress and taking responsibility for the school budget.

Together with my brother and sister, I attended Lower Halstow School and almost feel as if I've never left! I continue to live locally and with my brother run a small farming business in the village. Many of the skills used to run my business have proved to be very useful in being a Governor.

I regularly visit both schools and have a good working relationship with senior staff, teachers and support staff. Although I have been a Governor for many years I still find the role challenging but rewarding. Being married to a teacher also helps to keep me on my toes as well as keeping me reliably informed about current educational trends.

Vice Chair of Governors:  
TOM LEDGER

Diocesan Foundation  
Governor -



I have managed my family farm for 50 years and enjoy running the business. I have been a member of St Mary's Newington Parochial Church Council for a similar length of time, Treasurer for several years and two spells as Church Warden, represented the village of Newington on Swale Borough Council for sixteen years, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group for thirteen years, four years Majority Leader of the Council.

I was asked to be a foundation governor of Newington CEP School in 2012 and have just been re-appointed for another four years, now for the Federation.

I found the early stages hard work getting to grips with a governors responsibilities and an in depth knowledge of the schools. I have found the effort very rewarding and enjoy the challenge of trying to ensure that the Christian values and ethos are woven into the children's education. I believe both schools are extremely well led, encouraging learning in a happy atmosphere. I hope we will continue to be schools who welcome children from all backgrounds and varying levels of abilities giving them all the opportunity to fulfil their potential and become good citizens.

## EXECUTIVE

HEADTEACHER: Cathy Walker



I have a very strong attachment to both Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools having started as Deputy Headteacher at Newington, moving to Headteacher of Lower Halstow and now Executive Headteacher to the Federation of both schools.

I passionately believe that every child deserves the very best education we can provide for them at the same time striving to ensure our pupils become ready for their future lives as citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## FOUNDATION

GOVERNOR: Reverend Julian Staniforth



I am the Rector of The Six benefice of churches, which includes the villages of Newington & Lower Halstow. This role brings with it a number of different connections with both schools, not least as the local parish Priest-in-charge of St Mary's Newington and St Margaret's Lower Halstow. By virtue of this role, I hold an ex-officio post as a Foundation Governor on the School's Governing Body. As a Governor I am currently a member of the Finance Team. I am also an ex-officio Foundation Governor of Hartlip C of E School (Endowed), where I am also joint vice-Chair and Chair of their Finance Committee.

I bring previous experience from the world of business, as I am a Chartered Management Accountant, having spent many years in financial management in the electronic and media industries prior to ordination. I am committed seeing how Christian values provide a strong foundation, not only for the children's learning and achievement, but also equipping them for life in a challenging world where they can both flourish as well-rounded human beings and make their own unique contribution.

PARENT GOVERNOR: Bill Soakell



I am currently the elected Parent Governor at Lower Halstow Primary School, where I currently have one child attending; my second child will start at Lower Halstow School in September 2017. As my day job I am the Head of business development for Baxi Heating UK. As I will have two children attending the school it is imperative for me that the school is performing in every key area. It is my belief that the early years of a child's education are crucial to their later academic achievements and just as importantly to the development of social and other life skills. As a Parent governor I will strive to make sure that all of these objectives are met.

PARENT GOVERNOR – Jemma Puttock



I am married with three children, my eldest currently attending Newington CEP and my two younger children will be starting their academic journeys in September 2017 & September 2019. I have worked within the accountancy profession for the last 8 years and currently work for a top twenty firm specialising in tax. I care passionately about children's education and firmly believe they need the right starting blocks to encourage their learning journey. In conjunction with my knowledge and experience working in the finance industry, becoming a parent governor will enable me to contribute towards Newington and Lower Halstow's Governing body, working together to ensure every child enjoys their time at school, develops their full potential and feels safe in their learning environment and has access to outstanding education.

STAFF GOVERNOR:  
Jasmine Gilbert



I joined Lower Halstow School in 2015 and work as a teacher in Rowan class. I am enthusiastic about learning and believe positive experiences at school help to give children fundamental skills so they may go on to become lifelong learners. I have always wanted to be a teacher and I am proud to work in the Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Federation.

I joined the Governing Body as a Staff Governor to be able to input my knowledge as an educator with my understanding of children and how they learn.

CO-OPTED GOVERORS (5)

Simon Krafft (Head of  
School for Lower  
Halstow)



I have been at Lower Halstow School since 2007 when I joined as a NQT. I am proud to have played many roles within the school, teaching most year groups and leading many subjects. I have been a governor for the majority of the time and was part of the team that oversaw the federation of Lower Halstow and Newington CEP School.

I have been Head of School at Lower Halstow since September 2014 and am committed to providing a safe, engaging and enjoyable environment for pupils to learn and grow.

Gerry Lewin (Chair of Finance)



I am the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning Services at Swale Borough Council and represent the Ward of Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch.  
Before I retired my last job was working at Lloyd's of London as an IT project manager.  
I am widowed with two daughters who both attended Holywell School in Upchurch.  
I had been a Governor at Lower Halstow prior to its Federation with Newington. I am also a Governor at Highsted Grammar School and have previously been a Governor at The Howard School and the Temple School where I also was Chairman of Governors for five years.  
I am strongly committed to the education of students and support the strong core values and Christian ethos provide at both Lower Halstow and Newington.

Tony Mould – Training and Development Governor



I moved to Newington with my family from London in the early 80's, and my son Alex attended Newington school. I was involved with the PTA as it was known then, until my son moved on to senior school.  
I trained as a technical illustrator and ran a successful business based in Maidstone typesetting and illustrating scientific and educational books.  
On retirement I joined Newington Parish Council and from there I was appointed to the then Newington Governing Body. I supported the union with Lower Halstow and have seen the two schools merge into a successful Federation. I am a member of the Finance Committee and training governor and as part of the governing body support the excellent staff and management team in providing the very best for the children.

Liz Windon (Chair of Learning and Development)



I have worked as an independent school data consultant for the last 8 years having previously worked in the Medway and Kent Local Authority Management Information teams. My expertise is in the understanding of primary school data and pupil tracking systems.

I have been a school governor at a number of primary schools since 2000 and joined the governing body of Newington CE Primary school in 2010 and have been on the governing body of the Newington and Lower Halstow Federation since it was formed. I believe that all children deserve to receive a positive experience and a great education to take them on to their Secondary schools well prepared.

I live in Parkwood in Rainham. I have two adult sons.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Trudi Godfrey (Head of School for Newington CEP)



I am the Head of School of Newington Church of England Primary School and have worked at the school since April 2010, initially as Deputy Head and then Head of School. I have 17 years teaching experience across a number of schools in Kent. I have been a Governor for the last 9 years, throughout my time at Newington and in my previous school. I attend all meetings.

I am passionate about every child having a good education and enjoying school. I am committed to working with all staff and Governors to ensure that every pupil achieves their best.