

Governors are for the most part people with jobs of their own who are not expected to run the school on a day-to-day basis. The governors' role is largely a strategic one.

Governors are supporters of the school and often described as "critical friends". When a governor comes into school, it is to learn and not to judge.

The history of the school governor is rooted in the belief that good education is not just a matter for educationalists and that it must be balanced with the views, opinions and experiences of people who exist outside of the classroom.

Everyone on the governing body will have a mixture of skills, and a good governing body will have a broad mixture of different skills and qualities.

Each academy within Truro and Penwith Academy Trust has a Local Governing Body who are responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day management and administration of each academy (in accordance with TPAT's Scheme of Delegated Authority).

The three core functions of school governance are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.



Alverton Primary School



Governors and Governance

Parent Guide

Number 7

Alverton Governors

2022 - 2023

Louise Allan

I grew up in the New Forest, so my mum can't believe that her two grandchildren have followed in her footsteps, attending Alverton School as she did. Prior to living in Cornwall, I worked for Highbury College in Portsmouth, where I was responsible for up to 400 skilled workers enrolled in workplace NVQs. I can often be seen on the side of a tennis court with my tennis mad children.



Terry Binns

Both my children attended Alverton and I have always felt very supportive of the school. I think the children have a wonderful opportunity to meet and become a part of a larger community. I believe they should be nurtured at school and their experiences should be fun and encourage enquiry. My work has been predominantly within the Creative Arts sector, particularly photography, film and music. I enjoy learning about different cultures and languages; and I love being in the 'great outdoors'.



Maili Buckingham

Both of my children have been through Alverton School. My youngest is now in Year 6. I manage the finances for a local business and have experience in financial and data analysis. After many years in FOAS I'm looking forward to contributing as part of the governing body.



Amy Clemens

I have been a teacher for 18 years and 15 of these have been spent at Alverton School. I grew up in Penzance and have almost always lived here, spending a few years in Cheltenham and London in between. I am married with three children, one who attends Mounts Bay School and the other two are still here. I love spending long days on the beach, sea swimming and exploring our local area. I am the PSHE Lead and feel passionate about teaching our children about the importance of looking after their mental and physical health and wellbeing.



Anna George Chair of Governors

I am a solicitor and mother of four who has been part of the Alverton School community for several years. Having moved from London, I have enjoyed being part of the Alverton School team and hope to continue to help the school go from strength to strength.



Martin Higgs Headteacher

I have been a teacher since 1989 and have been a headteacher since January 2000. Alverton is my third headship having previously been head of Paulton Juniors in Bath and Pensans Primary School. I am married with three daughters and am a long suffering Aston Villa supporter.



Claire O'Rourke

I have been a teacher since 1991, working for fourteen years in special schools, specialising in teaching children with profound and multiple learning difficulties. I then moved into mainstream education and started teaching at Alverton twelve years ago, loving the new challenges this presented me with and the chance to work in such a supportive and positive environment. I am married with three children, love being in the great outdoors and start most days with a swim off Battery Rocks.



Tim Rowland

I was born and raised in Penwith but I moved away to go to University. I met my wife while studying Physiotherapy in Cardiff. We lived and worked in Wales for a few years before moving down to Cornwall over 10 years ago. I have two sons who attend Alverton and Woodlands. They keep me pretty busy but in my spare time I like playing tennis and sea swimming.



Simeon Royle

Married to Rachael, we have three children who are or have been students at Alverton School. I have found Alverton to provide high quality teaching in a top class learning environment, resulting in excellent progress and a superb preparation for life beyond Key Stage Two. As Senior Vice Principal of Mounts Bay Academy, I am delighted to offer support and expertise wherever possible to the positive and exciting developments concerning teaching and learning at the school.



Helen Thomas-Ayotte

I am a parent of two children who both attend Alverton. I became a governor to help and support a great school. I am a primary teacher with an interest in PE and in my spare time I enjoy reading and being active.



Emma Trembath

I was born and raised in Penzance but moved away to university, and then returned to settle in Alverton and went on to complete my social work training. I have two children, my son who attended Alverton School and is now at secondary, and my daughter who is currently in Reception at Alverton. I currently work as a children's social work team manager in Camborne and have worked for the local authority for twenty years, all within Children's Services, so have a good understanding and knowledge of safeguarding procedures which I'm hoping might be helpful to the board. My family and job keep me busy but in my spare time I enjoy walking my dogs and gig rowing.



Rebecca Wilkes

Vice Chair of Governors

I am now retired after working for thirty seven years for a local bank. During that time, I undertook a variety of roles including frontline service roles and as a Business Banking Manager. I also volunteered as a Princes Trust Business Advisor to young people. My final role for many years was assistant to the Local Director for the South West Group.

