

Governor	Dates in post	Position Held	Responsibility	Pecuniary Interests	How did you get involved at the school?	What do you like about Woodlands and what changes have you seen since you became Governor?	What are the Governors working on at the moment?
Karen Mills	May 2019 - ongoing	LEA governor	<p>Chair of governors</p> <p>Chair of Curriculum sub-committee</p> <p>SEND governor</p>	None	<p>I knew the school well through my role with Wiltshire Council (retired 2018). One of my ex-work colleagues asked me if I'd like to join the governors at Woodlands as there was a vacancy.</p>	<p>The school is a vibrant school with a good relationship with the local community. Teachers and all staff work tremendously hard and this is evident when you visit the school. There is a lovely enthusiastic atmosphere at Woodlands and a warm welcome from the office staff too.</p> <p>Matthew and his staff work tirelessly to move the school forward to improve outcomes for pupils and to provide a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for them. Woodlands Vision and Values statement has been revised and is incorporated into the monitoring schedule for governor consideration.</p> <p>A number of governors have left in the past year and we have recruited four new governors including two parent governors, since March 2020. The governing body is now working more strategically with support from the Local Authority and the governors' action plan reflects this. There is full attendance at governors' meetings and monitoring of subjects by individual governors is well-embedded.</p> <p>We now use Microsoft Teams as a platform for our meetings and to store key documents.</p>	<p>Our action plan linked to the SDP is evolving. Progress in this will be reviewed by the LA governor lead in term 4.</p> <p>Developing our monitoring schedule and demonstrating impact of this.</p> <p>Reviewing the skills audit and participating in Right Choice training to develop knowledge and understanding of key issues and increase our own effectiveness as a governing body.</p> <p>Current focus on Remote Education offer – engagement and impact. Taking the best features forward after Covid.</p> <p>Supporting HT with well-being by way of telephone calls, emails and 1:1 meetings on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Developing our individual links with teachers and subject leaders.</p> <p>Increasing our own knowledge of the curriculum and how this is changing in school during Covid-19 and beyond.</p>

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<b>Graham Cook</b>	May 2018 - ongoing	Governor	Vice Chair of governors  Safeguarding governor	None	Through Jan Patterson when we were both members of Salisbury Rotary Club	<p>From the moment I became a Governor I was impressed by the caring attitude of the Staff from the Head Teacher down. I was aware that the School was in one of the most deprived areas of Wiltshire with all the attendant difficulties this brings. My background as a solicitor advocate specialising in the area of Child Care Law had had a great impact upon as regards a wish to do all I could to assist these vulnerable children and this ethos has followed me into retirement so that becoming a Governor has given me the opportunity to try and do something positive in this regard.</p> <p>I am firmly behind the Head Teacher in his wish to move the School forward including an attempt to provide a wide variety of extracurricular activities for his pupils. Music, in particular, is part of the curriculum in which I have a particular interest and I applaud the efforts of Helen in her efforts to produce such a stimulating programme for the pupils. The existence of the School Orchestra is proof of that.</p> <p>I am also very keen to support the School in its teaching of Pupil Premium children which form a high proportion of the School numbers. To this end I have been very pleased that with been able to embark on interview with the Pupil Premium to try and ascertain how they feel about their School, including their likes and dislikes. I would hope that we will be able to continue to progress this over the coming months and that ultimately we will be able to include the whole School in this exercise.</p> <p>Since I became a Governor the Governing Body has gained far more expertise as regards the teaching methods employed by the Staff and is far more able to question and hold the School to account if the need should ever arise. This also results in far more involvement at full Governors' Meetings.</p>	Apart from the programme of Pupil Interviews we are now working far more strategically across the Board and are doing what we can to try and ameliorate the chronic shortage of space that the School is forced to labour under.

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<b>Sian Cooper</b>	March 2020 - ongoing	Co-opted governor	Chair of Finance sub-committee  Early Years governor	None	I was introduced to the school by someone who was a volunteer listening to the children read. I was just about to retire and was seeking to utilise my skills for the good of the local community. In my career, I had lots of governance experience and had been involved with a number of education charities, which the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher felt would add helpful experience to the Board of Governors.	<p>I have been particularly impressed with the pastoral care at Woodlands. The Head Teacher and all the staff work tirelessly to care for the children and provide a safe, stimulating and encouraging environment in which to learn. Children are well behaved and attentive in lessons and feel well supported by the teaching staff. I really love the joy and sense of pride I see in children when they demonstrate what they have remembered and learnt.</p> <p>It has been quite a challenging time to become a new Governor with COVID restrictions meaning that on site visits to school were extremely limited. As the situation has eased, Governors have increasingly been able to meet in person and there has been a greater focus on strategy and the strength of the curriculum to ensure that all children achieve the best possible outcomes. It has also been possible to step up the level of Governor monitoring and to engage with the School Improvement Advisor to gain an independent view of which aspects of the school are working well and any potential areas for improvement.</p>	<p>Governors are keen to increase parental engagement and have appreciated the time taken to provide feedback via the parent survey. We have also recently conducted pupil interviews so that we have a good understanding of how the school is operating from the children's perspective.</p> <p>Our focus on the curriculum means that we are systematically reviewing how each subject is taught, both with monitoring visits and with subject leads taking it in turns to present this to the Curriculum sub-committee.</p> <p>There is a recognition that some children have fallen behind during the pandemic, so Governors are keenly reviewing pupil assessment data and the impact of how catch-up funding is being used to support these children, particularly those who are struggling the most.</p> <p>We are also engaging with Wiltshire Council to lobby for funding to make improvements to the school premises.</p>

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<b>Alison Small</b>	September 2020 - ongoing	Community Governor	<p>Link Governor: Mathematics</p> <p>SMSC</p> <p>British Values</p> <p>PE</p> <p>Art</p>	None	<p>A vacancy arose on the Governing Board and the Chair of Governors asked if I would like to join.</p>	<p>Woodlands is a school on a mission to provide the best learning opportunities for all its pupils. The Headteacher drives the school forward supported by teaching and support staff who know the children, and their learning strengths and areas for development well. They provide a range of support to meet the needs of the children both educationally and pastorally. The Vision and Ethos of the school is lived every day - keeping the child at the centre of all they do.</p> <p>When I joined the school in September 2020 the Headteacher and Chair of Governors gave me a tour of the school and it looked as one would expect. The children were engaged with their lessons and staff were busy teaching, the atmosphere was one of high expectation, encouragement and fun. By Term 3 this had changed to one of Remote Learning provision, small classes in school and a very different learning. Offer. Since January 2021 the changes have been immense however the core vision and ethos have not changed. Staff have adapted their practice and governors have honed their practice to better monitor teaching and learning. There is more focus on the outcomes for all learners, especially vulnerable groups of children and even more challenge to school leaders to evidence the quality of education. Governors ask more challenging questions but also remain mindful of the need to support the school, and of their responsibility to be aware of staff wellbeing at a very challenging time for all in education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring learning outcomes for all pupils.</li> <li>• Monitoring progress for all pupils.</li> <li>• Meeting with subject leaders as Link Governors</li> <li>• Attending training sessions on a variety of subjects.</li> <li>• Continuing with specific core functions such as Safeguarding, finance meetings and curriculum meetings.</li> </ul>