

## Our Governing body 2024/25



**Nicola Perkin – Chair of governors**

I have been a local resident in Biddulph for 21 years having moved to the area to own my first home. I became interested in being a school governor when my Company encouraged me to use 6 days per year to work on community improvement or support and, having done some career work with a local high school, I became aware of the role a governor holds and researched and applied to Woodhouse Academy. As a mum to a 8 year old I have a keen interest in ensuring that the Biddulph Schools system continues to be successful and that our schools continue to play an integral part in both academic and community life.

For work I develop and lead large scale business transformation and continuous improvement programmes which span process, technology and organisational change. Typically the programmes will be enterprise wide and will deliver £multimillion margin improvement however the value can vary depending on complexity of project and other benefits, such as employee engagement, Customer satisfaction or Health & Safety/Compliance.

In my role as chair of governors I support the leadership team to continuously strive for excellence in both academic achievement and in delivering to the ethos and values of our school.



**Caroline Quinn – Vice Chair of governors**

I have been a Headteacher in Leek for 10 years. My school is a member of a large, local Academy Trust, which is committed to the three tier school system. This allows me first-hand experience of closely working collaboratively with my fellow Academy First, Middle and High schools, and seeing the benefits that this collaborative view of education has for the children and families within our community. I am passionate about education and ensuring that all children are able to access the same quality learning experiences whatever their background, circumstances or school choice.

My daughter is a pupil at Woodhouse Academy and my son currently attends a local First school, so it is of paramount importance to me that Woodhouse continues to provide the very best teaching and learning experiences for pupils, and is at the forefront of educational thinking.



**Eileen Cox**

My name is Eileen Cox and I became a Governor of Woodhouse Middle School in March 2011. Although officially retired I like to be involved in voluntary work, and on that basis I do help out one of our County Councillors, which, in turn, enables me to be informed of what goes on in our community, which can be helpful in my role of Governor in the Academy.

One of the most satisfying events in my role as a Governor of Woodhouse was responding to the pleas of the President of the Twinning Association of our Twin Town of Fusignano in Italy, who was extremely keen to reinstate the exchange of visits of students between Biddulph and Fusignano and vice versa.

I am also heavily involved with our National Health Service being a Governor of West Midlands Ambulance Service. I serve on the Patient Congress of the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which leads to being invited to sit on several Committees relating to the provision of health. Locally I am the safeguarding officer for St Lawrence's church.



**Gary Frost**

I have lived in Macclesfield for over 30 years but was born and educated in Lancashire, where I went through the middle school and upper school system as a pupil. I have been passionate about foreign language learning and teaching since sixth form. I was a languages teacher and Head of Department for 36 years in total, which was always demanding but also very rewarding and interesting.

I was a mentor in school for Manchester Metropolitan University for 14 years and was asked to become an Associate Lecturer (i.e. Part-time) in the Department for Teacher Education upon retirement. I visited and observed trainees, did progress reviews, occasional lectures and interviews in the foreign language for postgraduate training places.

I always became involved in area groups out of school and was secretary of Macclesfield Area Language Teachers for 12 years and led the district TVEI group for 8 years – organising 2 A level conferences for over 200 students at Manchester Airport and 2 GCSE days in Macclesfield town centre. I have an ability to work well with a wide range of people and to empathise with others' points of view.



**Phillip Hassall**

I have been a local resident in Biddulph since 2006 when I married and bought my first house. I completed a degree in Mathematical Education in 2004 and spent the next 14 years as a secondary school Maths Teacher with wide range of additional roles including pastoral, Pupil Premium and second in department. In 2018 I left teaching and started working for the Ambulance Service and have qualified as a paramedic. Alongside this, I teach first aid for a private company.

Outside of work, I volunteer with The Scout Association, something I have been a member of since the age of six. This allows me to bring together my love of the outdoors with working with Young People and giving something back to the community. I am married with a daughter who is currently at Woodhouse.



**Victoria Jackson**

I have lived in the local area all of my life and was a previous student of Woodhouse Middle School, I also have two children currently at the school.

Over the past 20 years I have worked in the Pharmaceutical industry at various companies and at present am a Senior Quality Analyst for AstraZeneca.

I am passionate about science and learning and feel strongly that in order to nurture inquisitive young minds there should always be an element of fun to education.

In my spare time my family and I enjoy taking our two dogs; Einstein and Vader for long walks in the country side. I also enjoy yoga and playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends.



**Liam Jewess – Parent governor**

Having been a resident of our town since childhood, a former pupil and now parent of a pupil at this fantastic school I jumped at the opportunity to contribute to its ongoing success.

In my professional life I work as a Global Workforce Manager for one of the world's largest online travel businesses, as part of this role I'm responsible for delivering projects and workforce plans which meet the requirements of our customers while balancing costs and quality metrics. I hope to use my skills and experience to help our school achieve its present and future goals.

In my personal life as well as my Daughter who attends the school, my wife and I have another 2 younger children in our local school system, I also volunteer my time coaching football to local children as part of Knypersley Knights FC.



**Emma Postlethwaite**

I am currently Deputy headteacher at a local secondary school and have been in the Education sector for almost 20 years. I moved to Biddulph in 2020 and immediately fell in love with the local area and community and the three tier system. My eldest son started at Woodhouse in September this year and my youngest will start next year so I am heavily invested in ensuring the school is as good as it can be for the students.

My current role involves responsibility for behaviour and standards as well as safeguarding and attendance and I also continue to teach Science, so I bring a wealth of knowledge to the governing body of Woodhouse. I'm looking forward to getting to know the school better in my first year and supporting the leadership team in their relentless strive for improvement and outcomes for the students.



**Jonathan Wyse – Parent Governor**

I have been resident in Biddulph since 2013, and am the parent of a current Year 8 pupil. My younger child hopes to come to Woodhouse Academy in September 2025.

I work as an Elite Sport Manager at Loughborough College, overseeing a nationwide Sporting Excellence qualification for 16–18-year-olds with Football, Golf, Handball, Volleyball and other sports. This includes 400+ learners, 25 external partners and an annual budget of more than £1million. I am familiar with quality assurance processes, educational achievement, and the Ofsted inspection framework. I also have experience as a Middle School Governor.

I have volunteered within British American Football over the past 20 years. I have been a Company Director of the sport, and currently serve on Coaching, Sport Science & Medicine, and Hall of Fame Selection Committees.

I am passionate about creating safe and positive learning experiences for all young people.