

Thornbury Primary School – Local Governing Body

Lynn Smith

Chair of Governors



I retired in 2009 after fifteen years as Headteacher of a Primary school with a Nursery. My teaching career spanned forty seven years, during which time I taught all primary ages and, when living in West Yorkshire, I also taught French and PE in a Middle School. I have lived in Plymouth since 1984. I have four grown up children and six grandchildren. I currently work part time for the University of St Mark and St John, in Initial Teacher Training. I am also a trustee for a Plymouth Charity, which supports young people and organisations across the city.

I enjoy my roles enormously and find that each one relates to what has motivated me through my whole professional life; namely working with, and on behalf of, children. I am proud to be a part of Thornbury Primary School's Governing Body, supporting the best educational opportunities for everyone and celebrating its many varied, individual and collective achievements.

My hobbies include walking, travel and cooking.

Rachel Confue

Vice Chair of Governors



I trained as a psychiatric nurse in Portsmouth, and moved to Suffolk and worked there for five years as a nurse. During that time my family grew to three children.

In 1997 we moved to Plymouth for my husband's job. I continued to work here in Plymouth as a nurse until my twins arrived, which meant my family was complete with seven children in total!

When my family became a little older, I became a parent support advisor at Holy Cross School.

It was in this time that one of my children was fortunate to be offered a place at Thornbury, for speech and language support, I have felt very welcomed and I hope I can give something back.

Rob Lippett



I have worked with children and young people for over twenty years, first as an Outdoor Pursuits Instructor then as a Youth Worker. I was a Youth Worker based in Estover Community College for ten years. I feel I got to know the local communities well during my time at Estover.

I am very happy to be joining the team of *Governors* at Thornbury. I have always found working with Thornbury productive and enjoyable. I am looking forward to developing my understanding of school governance and hope the experience I bring will allow me to make useful contribution to the school.

My professional areas of interest include supporting inclusion and diversity in schools and informal education approaches. My hobbies include hill walking and gardening.

Tony MacManus



I am a retired Royal Naval Engineering Officer BSc (Hons) CEng MIEE. I studied Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the Royal Naval Engineering College at Manadon, returning as a Training Officer before retirement. I also worked in industry as Senior Project Manager Naval Contracts for Matra Marconi Space. I re-joined the Royal Navy and served as Training Officer for the Kuwaiti Navy, Special Military Adviser to the NATO Deputy Commander in Chief in Naples, Italy, and as Waterfront Manager, responsible for maintenance and upkeep of Devonport based Nuclear Submarines.

My interests in retirement are gardening, being Chairman of a local MG Owners Club and of course being a *Governor* of Thornbury Primary School.

Claire Hardisty **Headteacher**



I grew up in Sheffield and studied for my teaching degree in Lincoln. I qualified as a teacher in 1987, and initially worked in Cambridgeshire. My first post was in a Catholic Primary in the centre of Cambridge, then three years in a village school, after which I took a promoted post of Year 5 and 6 team leader in a very large primary school in the town of March. I was Literacy and Music coordinator during this time, as well as being on the school leadership team.

Moving home to Sheffield, I took up a Deputy Head post. I then worked for the Local Authority in Sheffield, undertaking advisory work across the city for music and arts in primary and secondary schools and also classroom practice. I was then asked to join the SRAS team, which provides leadership support to schools in challenging circumstances. This involved being placed in a school, for perhaps a term at a time, either as the Headteacher or Deputy, working intensively on school improvement. This was a very challenging but rewarding role and I was privileged to work in a range of schools, from some of the most deprived areas of the city, to the more affluent.

Moving with my family to Devon, I took up the post of Teaching and Learning Consultant with Plymouth Local Authority, providing advice and training to schools across the city. I also took my NPQH (Qualification for Headship). In 2007 I was appointed as Headteacher at Thornbury Primary School. In February 2015 I was also appointed as an LLE (Local Leader in Education) for the South West consortium, where I am deployed to provide leadership support to schools in Plymouth.

I have two grown up children, and enjoy walking, cycling, art, music and writing.

Gemma Aspen



I joined Thornbury Primary after completing my teacher training with Devon Primary SCITT, and am now enjoying my fourth year of teaching at Thornbury. Most of my time here has been teaching Year 3 in the Lower Juniors but this year I am working with a mixed Year 3 and 4 class. I have developed a keen interest in supporting children with a variety of needs since joining the Lower Juniors, and as part of my role as team leader over the last two years I have supported two NQTs.

Prior to starting my teacher training, I attended Plymouth University. For my degree, I studied Psychology and in my final year I particularly focussed on child psychological development and memories.

I take the lead in Arts at Thornbury and I have a keen personal interest in art and crafts, enjoying drawing and painting in my own time. I run an Art after school club and through the delivery of whole school CPD have introduced 'Arts week', as well as a focus on work linking to particular artists.

I love living here in the Southwest and enjoy an active lifestyle; I can often be found walking around the moors, swimming or surfing. This summer I got married in St Ives - overlooking the beach!

Fiona Banks



I qualified as a teacher in 1984, starting as a secondary mathematics teacher on The Lizard in Cornwall. I have taught at Thornbury for most of my career, taking a seven year break to bring up my sons. Although teaching throughout Key Stage 2, most of my experience has been with the older children, preparing them for Statutory Assessments and transition to Secondary school. I was the Special Educational Needs coordinator for many years and appointed as Deputy Headteacher approximately 7 years ago.

I am totally committed to providing the best for the children in our care and am passionate about teaching mathematics. I have recently taken on the role of Teacher in Charge of the Learning Support Centre based at Thornbury.

I have served as a Co-opted Governor for 5 years and am currently studying for a Post Graduate Diploma in Language and Communication Impairment in Children (LACIC) at Sheffield University.

My interests include walking the coastal paths and I am also learning to fly.