

Who are the Governors?

The 13 governors are:

Portia Ray (Chair - Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends March 2024

Monitoring Areas – Lunchtimes (food/Chartwells/behaviour), Changes to Leadership & Communication, SEN and Behaviour Policy

Jane Billings (Vice Chair - Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends September 2021

Monitoring Areas – Safeguarding and Implementation of CPOMS and RE/Spirituality

Father Rick McGrath (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends December 2021

Robert Marr (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends April 2024

Monitoring Area – Changes to Leadership & Communication

Jonny Laws (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends June 2024

Monitoring Area – Pupil and Staff Wellbeing

Desiree Forde-Gaskin (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends November 2022

Monitoring Area – Feedback & Curriculum

Josie Hall (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends June 2024

Monitoring Area – Feedback & Curriculum

Tony Moger (Foundation Governor)

Appointment ends June 2024

Monitoring Area – Health & Safety

Dave Bradley (Co-opted Governor)

Appointment ends August 2021

Monitoring Area – Lunchtimes (food/Chartwells/behaviour)

Dan Sibley (Co-opted Governor)

Appointment ends September 2021

Maria Cowler (Head Teacher)

Marian Watson (Staff Governor)

David Anderson (Associate Member)

We currently have vacancies for 1 foundation governor and 1 local authority governor – if you are interested in joining our governing body, please contact us for further details.

Meet the Governors

The School's Governing Body is made up of parents, parishioners and school staff who all share the common interest of our children's education.

There are further links where you can find out more about school governors; both from Government Resources and from our own Diocesan Resources.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese to uphold the School's Catholic ethos, the Local Authority governor is appointed by the Local Authority, the Parent Governors are appointed by parent election and the Staff Governors by staff election.

Foundation Governors

Portia Ray has two children who both attended St Wilfrid's. Portia is a doctor working in A&E and at the local hospice with no other business or financial interests. She is not a governor at any other school.

Jane Billings was a tax professional but has been retired for 15 years and so has no business interests. Jane is a trained School Admission Appeals panel member and, in this capacity, sits on hearings for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. Jane is not a governor at any other school.

Maria Cowler serves as a foundation governor at St Wilfrid's in line with holding the position of Headteacher. She was appointed in September 2019. Previously, she has worked in a number of Catholic primary schools across the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and has held the position of Headteacher in two other settings.

Father Rick has been parish priest and foundation governor since 2006. He has been involved in school governance for many years.

Robert Marr works in education as the Deputy Headteacher of a Catholic Comprehensive Secondary School. He has no specific financial responsibility. Rob is an associate governor at the school where he is Deputy Headteacher. He does not have voting rights in that role.

Jonny Laws is a Vice President at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London, where he works in the Corporate Planning and Legal Entity Management Sector. Before that he was a business controls manager with the same bank. He is a Director of the City Veterans Network, a Community Interest Company which seeks to assist service leaders' transition to civilian employment in the financial industry and raises money for service charities through fund raising events. A Reserve Army Officer, he commands a Company of the Princess Of Wales's Royal Regiment based in Brighton. Jonny is not a governor at any other school.

Desiree Forde-Gaskin works in a senior management role, which involves all aspects of management duties, including finance. Desiree has worked as an emergency nurse for 20 years, over 15 of which have been at senior level in Autonomous Practice. Desiree does not hold any other governance position at any other school.

Josie Hall has two children who attend/ed St Wilfrid's and she became a parent governor in 2016, she is currently one of our foundation governors. Josie works in education as a Senior Leader in a comprehensive secondary school in Brighton, she has no other business or financial interests. She is not a governor at any other school.

Tony Moger works in IT as a Network Designer, primarily in the aviation/air transport industry. Tony works on different types of projects with a focus mainly on large scale infrastructure works. Tony is not a governor at any other school.

Co-opted Governors

David Bradley works in the Financial Services sector, working with American Express for over 15 years plus a break from the Company with time in the insurance sector and with another card issuer. Currently working as a consultant at American Express, much of Dave's experience is in the area of Business Intelligence, ensuring that a company has the right information at the right time and place to help improve business performance and better decision making. Dave is not a governor at any other school.

Dan Sibley is an experienced commercial banker having worked in the financial sector for c 10 years. Dan has worked for the National Westminster PLC for c 8 years and holds the position of a Senior Relationship Manager. This involves managing a portfolio of SME clients and attracting new ones. Dan is also a member of the Chartered Banker Institute and a Co-opted member of the Executive Council of the Gatwick Diamond Business.

Associate Member

David Anderson

Staff Governor

Marian Watson is staff governor. Marian has taught at St Wilfrid's for 16 years, initially as a supply teacher and then as a permanent teacher from 2009. Marian teaches in Key stage 1 and is responsible for co-ordinating the mentoring of NQTs and student teachers across the school.

LA Governor

Application in progress

Parent Governors

Applications in progress

How are the Governors organised?

The full governing body meets three times a year and The Annual General Meeting is held in September.

There are statutory committees which meet termly and make recommendations to the Full Governing Board:

Strategy Team

(Portia Ray, Robert Marr, Jonny Laws and Maria Cowler)

Curriculum and Special Needs

(Portia Ray, Robert Marr, Desiree Forde-Gaskin, Josie Hall, Maria Cowler & Marian Watson)

Staffing, Pay and Appraisal

(Portia Ray, Jane Billings, Robert Marr, Jonny Laws, Maria Cowler)

Finance and General Purposes, including Health & Safety

(Portia Ray, Tony Moger, Dave Bradley, Dan Sibley, Maria Cowler)

Governors are responsible for:

- Protecting the School's distinctive Catholic character
- Holding the School to account for standards and achievement
- Setting the aims and ethos of the school
- The admission of pupils
- Staffing levels
- Approval, monitoring and accounting for the budget allocated to the school
- The maintenance and repair of the building
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's performance

How the School is Funded?

St Wilfrid's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.

The running costs of voluntary aided schools, like those of other state-maintained schools, are fully paid by central government via the local authority. They differ from other maintained schools in that only 90% of their capital costs are met by the state, with the school's Governors responsible for raising the remaining 10%. These funds have to come largely from parents. Donation forms are available from the office.

We ask each family, where they are able, to contribute £36 a year to the Governors' Fund. This helps pay for the essential upkeep and development of the buildings.

The Governors' Fund is entirely separate from money raised by The Friends Association, which is used for 'extras' such as the wildlife area and updated computer equipment for the new Learning Resource Centre and new play equipment.