

Governor Profile



Name: Rukia Shaffi, Chair

Biography: I joined the Governing Body in March 2016, and am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to contribute to our school's strategic development.

In 2018/2019, I was co-Chair of Governors alongside Jill Wilkinson, and in September 2019, I became the Chair of Governors.

It is a challenging time for schools across the country, but I am proud to see that Robert Shaw is rising to these challenges with a positive attitude, hard work and commitment. We continue to seek out new ways to improve and develop to ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.

As a full-time working parent, I don't have much time for hobbies but what spare time I can find I usually spent socializing with friends and family!

Governor Profile



Name: Karen Coker, Headteacher

Biography: I have been Head Teacher of Robert Shaw Primary and Nursery School Primary since September 2007. During this time I have seen many changes both to our school and to the educational landscape. We are a school which is dedicated to rising to any challenge, and to providing the best education to all of our children.

I am married with two children. In my spare time, I enjoy watching sport, including supporting Newcastle United in their ups and downs. I am a black belt in Karate and mixed martial arts and enjoy training for this a couple of nights a week. I also enjoy travelling, going to the cinema and eating out with my family.

Governor Profile



Name: Shaun Farrington, Trust Governor

Biography: I have been Head Teacher of Burford Primary since September 2007. I was invited to join the Governing body at Robert Shaw in November 2016 and am looking forward to contributing to the Governance of the school in whatever way I can.

I am married with three children. In my spare time, I play football and run. I also enjoy watching football and am a keen supporter of Preston North End.

Governor Profile



Name:

Jill Wilkinson, National Leader of Governance and Safeguarding & SEND Governor

Biography:

As an NLG I was asked to join the Governing Body in the autumn 2017 as Chair and since then, the governance has undergone significant change. As part of our continuous review in terms of our effectiveness, it was agreed that we should look for an Independent Chair as quickly as possible. At the start of the 2018/19 academic year, I agreed to Co-Chair with Rukia Shaffi, providing a year of coaching so that at the start of 2019/20 Rukia took up the position of Chair.

I have worked in school governance for about 15 years and was the former Chair of George Spencer Academy. I was awarded my NLG status in 2017 for recognition of supporting Portland Spencer Academy, a primary school in Bilborough.

Governor Profile



Name: Councillor Audrey Dinnall

Biography: I am a local Councillor for Leen Valley with Robert Shaw being one of the schools in my ward. I was delighted to be invited to joined the Governing Body in January 2020 and look forward to working with the school to continue to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

I have worked in the criminal and justice service for over 23 years and I am an advocate on behalf of children and families.

I am a proud grandmother of two and therefore understand the importance of children being happy and achieving in school.

Governor Profile



Name: Rowan Smart

Biograpgy

I have reached a point in my life where I want to give back to society and when the opportunity arose to be on the Board of Governors at Robert Shaw I seized the opportunity!

My working background originated in the printing industry raising to Director level at magazine printers before switching to the technology sector where I am currently Head of Projects for a multi-national organisation. My work sees me travel to the US several times a year visiting my staff and customers as well as Ireland and of course the UK. I hope that my commercial and possibly tech experience will be of benefit to Robert Shaw.

I live in Nottingham but previously I have lived in London, Vancouver, Canada and New Zealand. In my late teens and early twenties I lived in France, where I earned a living as an elite racing cyclist.

Clerk to Governors



Name: Mary Farmer

Biography: I am the Clerk for Robert Shaw Governing Body. I am also a Governor at Park Vale Academy which is a Secondary School in Nottingham.

For the last 12 years I have worked in a school office. I am passionate about children's education and enjoy being part of a school environment.

In my role as Clerk I have been developing my skills in leadership for school governance which has also supported my role as Clerk to the Trust's Guardians and Safeguarding groups.