Meet your school governing board



Ann Nicholson (Co-opted Governor & Chair of Governors)
Lead for Safeguarding, Data & Improvement, Curriculum and Whistleblowing

I moved to Cornwall from Surrey with my late husband in 2001. Before taking early retirement I taught in a Church of England Primary School in London for 35 years. Although I did not know at the time both my grandmother and husband had been pupils there. Later my own two children attended my school. Following my retirement, I volunteered in my old school and helped children with reading, ICT, visits and camps. Soon after our move to Launceston I volunteered to hear readers at St Stephens and eventually became a governor and later Chair. I resigned from the Governing Body of St Stephens a couple of years ago as I thought it needed some new faces and ideas. I then became a Member of Andaras MAT. However my interest in St Stephens continued and I offered to become a Governor again last year. Apart from my involvement with St Stephens, I enjoy reading, listening to music and walking my two dogs. I am an active member of Launceston U3A and am involved in my local community. My daughter is a teacher in New Zealand, so I try to visit her and my grandchildren whenever I can.
St Stephens is a great school and I am proud to be associated with it.



Peter Jones (Co-opted Governor & Vice Chair of Governors)
Lead for Vision & Strategy and SEND

I have lived in Launceston for the past 31 years. My sons attended Launceston College and currently three of my grandchildren live and go to school in the local area. During my working life I taught in Primary Schools in London, Hong Kong, Belgium, Germany and finally Launceston. After my 'school days' I was secretary of Launceston Golf Club for 6 years and I am currently a trustee and a regular playing member. I also invigilate at Launceston College during exam periods. I attend St. Stephen's Church and I am a member of the Parish Church Council. I also assist in providing 'Open the Book' assemblies weekly at St. Stephen's School.



Sue Tierney (Co-opted Governor)
Lead for PPG & PE (provision & impact)

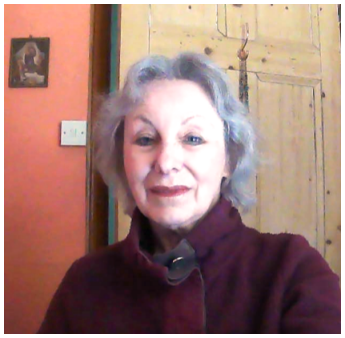
I was born in Reading, Berkshire and grew up in a village a few miles away. I moved to Cornwall nearly 25 years ago after being a civil servant at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. Ten years ago I received my second degree, a Bachelor of Education (Maths) and I taught in a number of schools for a few years. I retired early after being run over by a car. I am a member of St Mary's Church in Launceston where I sing in the choir. I also sing in the Choral Society. Church work includes being a member of the Church Committee, being treasurer, running Kids' Cafe, helping at Messy Church and, of course, Open the Book. I am a volunteer at Launceston Money Advice Centre where I help people with financial problems. I am a licensed Pastoral Minister and a Worship Leader. I have worked with children since I started Sunday School teaching at age 16. Being a School Governor for the first time is a great honour. Having been to the school some years every week with the Open the Book team, it seemed a natural progression to become a Governor. I believe that every child has the right to a positive education experience while at the same time developing their lives to become rounded and well-equipped caring people ready to take their place in the world. I can see that this is the ethos of this lovely school.



Kathy Walsh (Staff Governor)
Lead for Strategy, Stakeholders & Curriculum

I have been at St Stephens Community Academy since February 2018. I work in the Area Resource Base, teaching pupils with complex needs. It is a real honour to be working with these young people who face incredible challenges daily. I feel so lucky to have spent over twenty years working in some amazing schools in Cornwall with wonderful staff dedicated to providing the very best education and exciting experiences for all our children. During my time as a teacher, I have held a range of roles including Co-ordinator for English, Maths, Science, Assessment, Assistant Headteacher and SENDICO- achieving the National Special Educational Needs Qualification alongside becoming a Thrive practitioner. In a previous life, before I became a teacher, I worked on The Western Morning News and Plymouth Evening Herald, based in Plymouth.

I am mum to two boys, both of whom are at Launceston College. Until a few years ago, we lived in remote hamlets and small villages in the Launceston surrounding areas. We now live in Launceston and I have to confess, I do still appreciate being able to walk to a shop. We like to travel and my wish list of places to visit keeps growing! I am a terrible cook (I can burn pasta!) but I keep trying (much to my sons' dismay) and collect cook books in the hope that they can help me produce something edible! I feel privileged to be able to represent all of the dedicated staff at St Stephens Community Academy on the Governing Board.



Joan Heaton (Co-opted Governor)

I have lived in the centre of Launceston since 2002 after returning from living overseas. I was elected into office for Launceston Town Council in August 2019 and I am also an elected Councillor for St Stephen by Launceston Rural Parish Council. I am a member of Launceston Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG), a lay member of the Citizens Advisory Panel (an independent voice in the work of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership) and an Independent Custody Visitor working out of the Office of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner. I was a Parent Governor at my daughter's school in Reading in the 1980s and I have an ongoing interest in education and equal opportunities for all our young people.

Lesley Volz (Parent Governor)

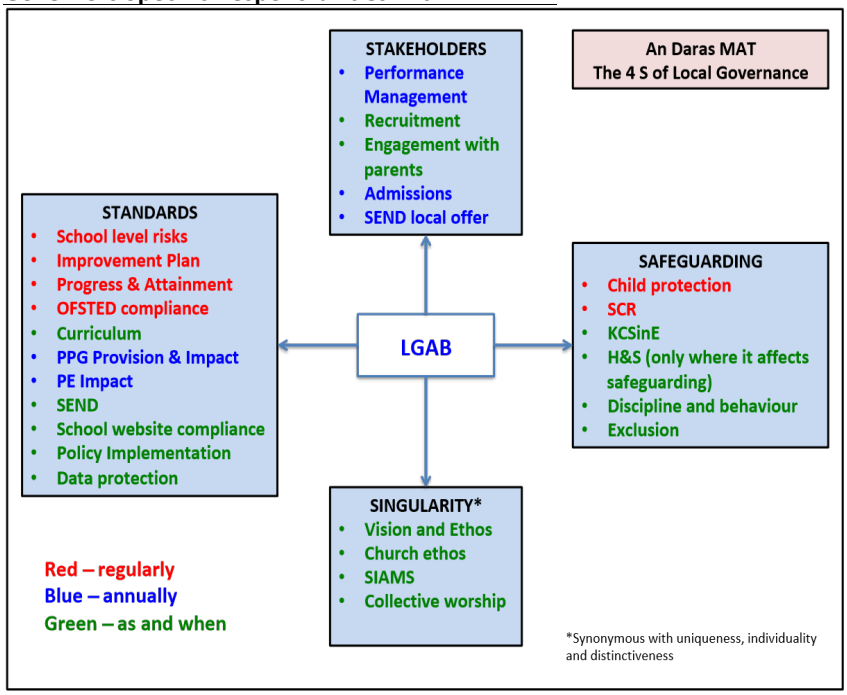
To follow

What do your governors do?

Overview

Their overall role is ensuring robust accountability and oversight of the school. They help to ensure clarity of the vision & ethos of the school, and they hold the school leadership to account for the educational performance, development and well-being of its pupils. They ensure that the school is committed to continuous improvement and take account of the views & needs of pupils, staff, parents and carers. They do this within the governance framework for An Daras MultiAcademy Trust (ADMAT) where the Trustees have certain governance responsibilities too, for example the school's finances.

Governors Specific Responsibilities within ADMAT



If you wish to contact a governor, there are a number of ways to do so:

- Contact via school secretary or Mrs Furber
- Email Chair of Governors on sscachair@andaras.org
- At school pick up or collection
- At parent's evenings

Please speak to your governors if you have any concerns or positive feedback regarding your school

More details about your governors, including minutes from their formal meetings can be found at http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/local_governance/204256