

Jo Merritt - Chair of Governors

Jo has been a governor for twelve years, including 4 years as Chair at a large primary school in Richmond and 2 years as Chair of Trustees at a secondary school multi-academy trust. She has successfully completed the National College, "Chair of Governors National Leadership Development Programme".

Jo was brought up in the local area and both her children have attended community schools. In her professional career, Jo has led teams to harmonise policy & operational practice across Europe for a multi-national corporation.

Jo is also a trustee at Citizens Advice Richmond.



Charlotte Wylie - Vice Chair

Charlotte has been a co-opted governor since September 2019 and is currently Vice Chair. She is a management consultant advising clients how to transform their businesses to enable growth. She has experience of leading large teams and delivering large scale transformation programmes in the private sector. Her role involves many core management functions that are applicable to being a school governor such as the efficient management and allocation of resources, performance and risk management and working collaboratively with different stakeholders.

She has two young children and lives in the local area and is keen to use her consulting experience and have a positive impact on her local community. In her spare time, she loves being outside whether its walking, running or cycling.



Janet Hilton – Governor

Janet has worked in School Governance for over 10 years, qualifying as a National Leader of Governance in 2012. She has worked across primary, secondary and special schools, supporting Chairs and Governing Bodies to improve and develop their skills.

Out of school she volunteers in a food bank, and enjoys yoga, walking, theatre and cinema.



Paul Hay – Governor

Paul is a retired primary school headteacher with 33 years of teaching experience, 21 years at headship level. Paul has worked in a variety of schools in inner-London and East London. He was headteacher at three London schools before moving to Hong Kong in 2004 to take up duties as Principal of a large international school. He has travelled extensively throughout south-east Asia. Paul's hobbies include travel, theatre, reading and gardening.



Wayne Finney - Governor

I have lived in the local area for over 20 years with my wife and our 2 teenage sons. I am a Chief Finance Officer for a group of primary schools in the LB of Sutton and prior to this worked as a school business manager for a number of years so have a sound knowledge of school finances. Outside of work I have a keen interest in sport and have been involved in scouting since I was a young lad. This is my first role of governance and I am proud to be involved in Ellingham where I hope to improve the opportunities for all children.



Natalie Harris - Governor

Natalie Harris joined the Ellingham Governing body at the start of 2021, she is an experienced education professional having worked at a number of schools and education settings and is currently the Director of HR & Compliance at a local independent school. She holds an Honours degree in Business, a diploma in HR Management and is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development.

An experienced youth mentor Natalie enjoys supporting young unemployed people in a voluntary capacity, helping them to develop interview skills and supporting them to find suitable and rewarding employment. Natalie's outside interests include running, cycling and reading.



Claire Harlow - Associate Governor

Claire has lived locally for 17 years and is a full-time, working mum to two girls who both attend Ellingham.

She joined the Ellingham Primary School Governing Body in December 2017 as a parent governor. She is currently an associate governor.

She has spent the last 17 years working in finance as a Chartered and Certified independent financial adviser (IFA). She has been based in Claygate for the last 3 years since moving to spend more time with her family and less time commuting. She also has 5 years' experience as the finance trustee of a small youth-focussed, education charity.

