Meet Your Governors

Colin Bridle



My name is Colin Bridle and I have been a Parent Governor at Nether Stowe School since November 2016. I am married with 3 children, and live in Lichfield.

I am Director of IT Operations for a Travel management business which is UK wide and employs around 900 people. My role is to ensure all operation technology is working effectively to support my colleagues in delivering hotel, rail and air bookings to our customers.

As a Parent Governor, I am keen to ensure the excellent work being done at Nether Stowe in their mission to 'strive higher' continues and we continually improve so that pupils and staff succeed in all they do. It is our role as Governors, to ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined.

A huge part of this is to engage with our stakeholders; parents, staff, pupils and the community. I am a keen amateur musician and enjoy getting involved in amateur dramatics – I am the link Governor for the Music and Performing Arts department.

We meet termly as a full Governing Board and also in committee meetings to discuss priorities in teaching and learning, curriculum and attainment, pastoral and well as planning, resources and marketing of the school.

If you are reading this, we hope that as a stakeholder you feel supported by us and you know what we do!

It is my privilege to be a member of the Governing body at Nether Stowe School and be part of the great work that goes on every day there.

Gary Crowe



Hello I'm Gary Crowe and I have been a Parent Governor since 2013 and Chair of Governors from February 2017. My interest in supporting the School is driven by a passion to help all our young people make the most of the opportunities ahead of them, and achieve their ambitions. I have lived locally for over 30 years, and have also served as a Governor at a local primary school and university. Day to day I'm involved with business, focusing on finance, innovation and strategy; skills I try to bring to the Governing Board. My ambition for the school – Outstanding in all aspects.

Anna Kavanagh



My name is Anna Kavanagh and I was elected as parent governor in May 2017. As a parent of three Nether Stowe students (my eldest left after A 'levels in July 2017), I believe I have a broad insight into the strengths and opportunities across the school. I am an experienced Company Director, having worked as owner/Director for 23 years in the most heavily regulated field of healthcare – holding statutory roles with two regulatory authorities. Having been education to Master's degree and post graduate diploma level, I have personally experienced the benefits of education.

My combined experience together with my passion as a parent will, I believe, make a valuable contribution to the Governing Board, in supporting the team at Nether Stowe to achieve the highest possible standards in delivery of education and pastoral support for all its students.

Andy Marshall

My name is Andy Marshall and I'm married with two teenage boys, one currently in Year 11 at Nether Stowe and the other in Year 9. I have lived in Lichfield for fifteen years.

The small business that I lead offers careers services and employment experiences to school and college students in inner city Birmingham. Through our partnerships with the local business community we provide young people with work related experience outside



of the classroom and beyond the curriculum, raising aspiration and improving confidence.

I was elected parent governor at Nether Stowe in November 2017, my application driven by a passion for pastoral work in education. More than ever before schools need to 'add value' to the curriculum, bringing it to life and widening learning opportunity — I am convinced that a secure confident teenager is a student equipped to meet their potential in school. Nether Stowe is a happy and successful school, with a positive atmosphere and a community ethos. I hope that, through the governing body, I am able to help maintain this success and further raise pupil aspiration and academic achievement.

Julie Read



My name is Julie Read and I became a parent governor in 2016 after being impressed by the school staff and teachers. I want to help the school develop confident children, who achieve to the best of their abilities and have the skills to succeed in careers they will enjoy.

Educated at Master's Degree level in both Materials Technology and Business Administration, I have worked in a FTSE 100 engineering company, in technical, marketing and strategic planning roles. The experience gained in those roles, including business planning, budgeting, recruiting and developing staff and mentoring will hopefully be useful as a school governor. I was also a trustee of the pension scheme. For the last 17 years, I have run successful small businesses of my own in a totally different field – the art and craft sector, where I perform similar roles as above, but on a smaller scale. In this role, I employ many young people and also work with schools in Birmingham to offer work experience placements. I have also run many workshops, mostly in primary schools in Birmingham and Staffordshire. During this time, I have also mentored small businesses and been involved in school business enterprise competitions. Outside work, I have volunteered at the local scout group – mostly with craft activities. I also have links with a school and scout group in the Gambia, where I have run craft projects and raised funds. Although not from the education sector, I hope that the other related skills and experience I have gained over the last 30 + years will be useful for being a school governor and help Nether Stowe's staff achieve their goal of becoming an outstanding school.