

Meet our School Governors

<p>Thomas Parrott Chair, Governors</p>		<p>Thomas has 25-years multi-faceted experience mostly in distance selling and online retail businesses. For the last decade, Thomas has run international marketing and operations for a global fitness and nutrition company. Thomas has been a director of large Direct response TV companies in both the UK and Scandinavia and was also Non-Executive Director and Vice Chair of the Board of Anti-Counterfeiting Group. He has 2 daughters at The Grove Juniors.</p>
<p>Sarbjit Sahota Vice Chair, Governors</p>		<p>Sarbjit moved to Harpenden 5 years ago and lives with her husband and 3 children, 2 of which attend the Grove Schools. Sarbjit is an established Leader with experience in various industries including Banking, Media, Entertainment and most recently Technology. Sarbjit is passionate about people development and is experienced in coaching and developing both Senior Leaders and Executives. She recognises the importance of providing a safe, caring and supportive environment, that enables development opportunities for each child. Sarbjit hopes to use her skillset to support the Governing Board, in ensuring that children leave School equipped with the knowledge, skills and moral foundations to achieve and succeed in later life. In addition to Vice Chair, Sarbjit is also the Link Governor for Maths, Science, Behaviour and Diversity.</p>
<p>Alina Sandell Chair, School Improvement Committee</p>		<p>Alina has been a Parent Governor at The Grove Junior School since 2018. Alina finds the role exceptionally rewarding, and is delighted to be able to give back to our community. Alina is Chair of the School Improvement Committee and the link Governor for English and Music. Outside of being a school Governor, Alina coach's business leaders and help organisations explore how they can best respond and adapt to their environment. Alina's corporate background of 20 + years in senior HR roles working across a variety of international business cultures up to board level brings a pragmatic and challenging perspective to the role of Parent Governor.</p>
<p>Julie Reeve Chair, Resources Committee</p>		<p>Julie is a parent governor and has two daughters who attend the Grove. After qualifying as a chartered accountant with PwC in 2004, Julie moved into industry and has held a variety of finance roles. Julie is now a Finance Business Partner in a FTSE 100 company, supporting decision making, strategy development and driving performance. Julie considers the chair of resources role a great opportunity to utilise her experience to support the school and contribute to the local community.</p>

<p>Steven Billingham Resources Committee</p>		<p>Steven has been proud to have been a governor of The Grove since November 2017. He lives locally with his wife and two children and is delighted to be involved in this wonderful school. Steven is a Partner in a large international law firm and is based in the City, specialising in Commercial Real Estate.</p>
<p>Sara Crute- Mussell School Improvement Committee</p>		<p>Sara is currently an Assistant Principal for Inclusion at an Outstanding North London All-through School and the SENCO for the Multi-Academy Trust. As part of this role Sara is currently the SENCO for two secondary schools, leads on student mental health support, is a member of the safeguarding team and is the designated teacher for children looked after. As a Governor Sara hopes to share her knowledge and experience of education to collaborate with all stakeholders. She is passionate about inclusion and believes education should be a platform for children to be the best version of themselves. Moving to Harpenden almost 3 years ago, Sara was keen to be involved in the local community and use her skill set to support the local school where her two children, aged 3 years and 9 weeks old, will hopefully one day attend.</p>
<p>Andy Kierney Resources Committee</p>		<p>Andy joined as a Governor of the Grove Junior School at the beginning of 2020 ... quite a time to take on this role! Andy is a parent of two young children, he lives locally and is motivated to give back to our community and contribute to the education opportunities of future generations. Andy is a chartered accountant with over fifteen years of professional experience in Finance roles having worked across three continents. Andy also sits on the Resources Committee of the Grove which among other things is responsible for overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.</p>
<p>Sarah Murray School Improvement Committee</p>		<p>Sarah qualified as a Secondary English teacher in 2008 and has lived and worked in St Albans since then, starting her career at Sandringham School in St Albans and most recently working at Parmiter's School as Head of English. Throughout her teaching career, Sarah has taken a keen interest in supporting and developing other teachers, working as both a Specialist Leader of Education for the Herts and Bucks Teaching School Alliance and qualifying as a Level 2 School Direct Mentor with the University of Hertfordshire. In December 2019, she was appointed as a Fellow of the Chartered College, in recognition of her service to wider education outside of her own school context. Sarah also has a keen interest in the transition between Primary and Secondary School. She was actively involved in designing and piloting an academic transition project between her school and a number of local feeder primary schools, as well as contributing to the whole school Teaching and Learning team, skills that she hopes will be of benefit in her role with the governing body. Prior to her career in education, Sarah spent time working in recruitment and HR. She is married with twin boys.</p>

<p>Sheila Smith Resources Committee</p>		<p>Sheila has worked in the City for over 25 years, with the last 20 years at major UK banking group, holding a variety of finance roles where she is now a senior manager in the Prudential Regulation Policy & Advisory team. A key part of this is understanding the finance and risk implications of regulations and how those regulations apply to complex banking products, a skill which is transferable to education, especially with the governor policy brief which she holds. She prefers working collaboratively to deliver results and has a strong sense of fairness and believes in opportunity for all, breaking down barriers which prevent this. Sheila has lived in the Southdown area of Harpenden for 20 years. Her daughter attended the Grove schools, moving onto STAGS for her secondary education.</p>
<p>David Summers Resources Committee</p>		<p>David joined the team in 2020 and currently a serving Police Officer with over 20 years experience holding various positions. David sits on the resources committee and is also the link governor for safeguarding and premises. David hopes to use his experience in creating a safe nurturing environment for children and staff.</p>

Staff Governors

<p>Lorna Urquhart Head Teacher</p>	
<p>Louise Wilding Assistant Head</p>	

Gordana Sicora
Business Manager



Alice Jackson
Head of English

