

# Governor Bios

## Tania Phillips – Chair of Governors

### Co-opted Governor

I became a school governor at Ashcroft when my son was in reception; and he is now at College! Not sure where all that time has gone!

I live a short walk away from Ashcroft and as well as being a mum to two children, I work in PR and marketing, having worked for local councils and the civil service. I don't work in education and have no other connection to education other than having children in local schools.

Every school has to have governing board which is made of volunteers like me. Our role is to contribute to make sure a school has high standards of achievement for all children and by:

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Being a governor is very important to me, I've always enjoyed my time in school and I volunteer because I feel I'm working to support the wonderful children of Ashcroft get the very best start to their time at school.

## Mark Hambly – Vice Chair of Governors

### Local Authority Governor

Having lived locally for nearly 30 years I appreciate the importance to our community of Ashcroft as a welcoming and caring place where children are encouraged to develop to their full potential as they begin their formal education. Initially as a parent governor and subsequently appointed by the local authority I've sought to encourage and challenge the head teachers and staff as they've taken the school from strength to strength through the many challenges the 21<sup>st</sup> century has brought so far. I'm now retired from paid employment in the world of business finance and engineering, but find myself as busy as ever across a number of voluntary roles, family life and projects of my own.

## Sue Boden

### Co-opted Governor

I worked as a teacher for over 30 years with experience across all age ranges. I began my career teaching maths and science in a secondary school, but my real passion was in teaching primary aged children, where I spent most of my career. I gained experience from teaching in a variety of schools with my final position before retirement being Head of School at Flax Hill Junior School.

My experience of being a governor started when my children began attending Ashcroft Infant School 34 years ago, with my role as a parent governor. I am currently a co-opted governor and a member of the finance and curriculum committees. I bring a variety of analytical skills, particularly for data and curriculum. My experience as a school leader also enables me to clearly comprehend whole school issues. Having previously been a key player for gaining a national award for Pupil Premium at Flax Hill Junior, I can use my knowledge and skills as link governor for Pupil Premium and Sport Premium.

On a personal note, now that I am retired, I can dedicate more time to my interests of fellwalking and cycling as well as caring for my grandchildren.

## **Jo Hambleton**

### **Co-opted Governor**

Both of my children went to Ashcroft, and I became a governor in 2017 when my son was a pupil. I am still a governor seven years later as I think it is important that future pupils get to experience the wonderful start to school life that Ashcroft provides.

I work in logistics as a finance manager and can use my experience to help governors to guide the school through the financial pressures that it faces.

## **Steven Mortimer**

### **Parent Governor**

I have been a Governor at Ashcroft for 18 months, and my daughter is currently in Year 2. Professionally, I have operated within the Technology industry for over 20 years having held Senior positions within large multi-national organisations such as NTT and Dimension data. Currently I am a Sales Director within BT Business heading up a vertical Sales function across Logistics, Freight & Air Travel. With a keen appreciation for future technology I am also involved with presenting and evangelising for the technology industry to apprentices and graduates looking for careers in Technology.

## **Stephen Simpson**

### **Parent Governor**

I became a parent governor at Ashcroft to help make a positive difference for our community by ensuring that our school provides the very best opportunities for every child. In this role, I work closely with school leaders to support good decisions and uphold policies that benefit our students, staff, and families.

I'm very committed and I believe that by sharing my insights and ideas from being an Assistant Headteacher at a local secondary school, I can contribute to making Ashcroft an even better place for our children to learn and grow.

## **Lisa Meads**

### **Parent Governor**

I am a mum to three boys who have all been / or are currently being taught at Ashcroft Infant & Nursery.

I am the CEO of a national charity called Care of Police Survivors (COPS), a charity dedicated to supporting the families of police officers and staff who have died on duty.

As well as experience within the charity sector, I have experience in marketing and events mainly operating in the sports industry.