



The Pinnacle Schools Federation



## Meet the Team

Welcome to our first governor newsletter of the 2020/21 academic year and as a federation. Both Hawkesbury and Iron Acton are now governed by one single governing body with all governors equally responsible for both schools. We are all very pleased to be involved and are keen to work with all members of our school communities to continue to make improvements by providing strong strategic leadership to our school and ensuring accountability for its educational and financial performance. We aim to be open and approachable and had hoped to be able to meet you all in person via a series of events. Obviously, we are unable to do so during current restrictions but we hope this can be arranged for later in the year. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us through the school offices, we'd love to hear from you.



**Ellie Blanch- Chair of Governors** I currently have 2 children (previously 3) at Iron Acton School and have been a governor for 6 years, 5 years as the chair. I am also the Chair of Governors at Marlwood so I spend a lot of my time doing governor associated work. My experience as chair, particularly through the federation process, has shown that good communication, respect and a clear vision is essential for our schools to provide the best, fully rounded education for our children. I believe that this governing body, alongside the great team of staff, will ensure a positive future for our pupils and school communities.



**Iona Cooper –Vice Chair** and parent governor at Hawkesbury since June 2018. I have three children at Hawkesbury school in reception, year 2 and year 5. My day job is finance (I work as a tax consultant for KPMG) so I bring a commercial skillset to the Federated board – project management, data analytics, accounting, strategic oversight as well as personnel management and values-based approach to leadership. I am delighted

that we have managed to bring the two schools together under Mr Riches stewardship and look forward to seeing both schools thrive under the Federation.



**Alec Bryant – Co-opted Governor** -I am excited to be part of the Pinnacle Schools governing team and look forward to seeing the positive impact we can have at both schools. I am a new co-opted staff governor who teaches at Hawkesbury School. I believe in team work, positivity and quality communication. My hope is to see both schools prosper under new governance.



**Christine Wilson- Staff Governor.** I am a staff governor and enjoy working across both our schools as the SENCO (Special Needs Co-ordinator); I have been a teacher at Hawkesbury since 2007. I also have well-being responsibilities and am passionate that all children are valued as individuals, motivated to learn and that high quality teaching enriches their experience at school. I work closely with parents, children and staff to ensure we are inclusive and welcoming to all. Working across the partnership gives me important insights to support my governing role.



**Ken Hull- Co-opted Governor.** I am a parent of a child in Hawkesbury, and a Co- opted member of the Governing body. I am the Lead nurse for a Community Children's Nursing team working across the Bristol and South Gloucestershire area, and working out of Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, so have close links with acute / specialist services based there. I have previous experience of acting as Vice Chair of Governors at Hawkesbury, and I feel the federation is a fantastic opportunity to share both resources, experience and development opportunities across both schools working together as one within the local communities served.



**Jo Strange- Ex officio Foundation Governor** - I have been an ex officio Foundation Governor for nearly two years at IA. It was a real pleasure to take up this role having been involved for some time with the school through the monthly all age service at St James as a local lay minister. I came to the role following a considerable number of years in a pastoral role in both primary and secondary schools and still have a passion for high level pastoral care for all young people. I am also keen to maintain and further develop a

positive and close relationship between The Pinnacle Schools Federation and St James Church. I have a real love of working with and supporting young people and believe being a Governor is an important way in which I can fulfil this.'



**Jill Bendeaux- Foundation Governor**-I am Jill Bendeaux and have been a Foundation Governor at Hawkesbury Primary school since 2017. Before I retired, I was head teacher of a voluntary controlled school with responsibility for Acts of Collective worship and R.E. I believe these areas are fundamentally important to the Ethos and Values of a school.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my Governor role, supporting the school to identify and promote its church identity .Completing the self -evaluation forms in preparation for our recent SIAMS inspection has helped me understand the impact of this on pupils and the local community. My role as link Governor for RE, has enabled me to appreciate how effective Acts of Collective worship and a rich RE curriculum can be the basis of a rich, pupil led curriculum. Working with members of the local church community and the Foundation and Ethics committee I have helped organise many memorable events for the pupils e.g. Harvest, Christingle, Pentecost and Remembrance days

For two years I have been a volunteer helper in Wren class which has been very enjoyable and helped me gain a better understanding of the development of the youngest members of the school,



**Sarah Godsell –co-opted Governor.** Hi, I'm Sarah Godsell and I have been a governor at Iron Acton Primary school since February 2019, when I joined as an associate governor, taking on the role of chair of the standards committee in September 2019. I'm an ex primary school teacher with a background in leading on personal, social and health education. Since 2014 I have worked in the public health team in South Gloucestershire Council, and work with educational settings in all things health and wellbeing wise. I'm passionate about supporting our schools to be wonderfully creative places, where children can thrive and flourish. On a personal level I belong to the Actonians drama group in Iron Acton village and also run the Junior Actonians youth drama group with a fellow Actonian. I also volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust and enjoy helping those in need who can't walk their dogs, but don't want to give up their beloved pet.



**Deb Marriage- Co-opted Governor** I'm Deb. I have been a parent to 7 children including a child with autism who has an EHCP, a child with ADHD and a child with epilepsy. My youngest child currently attends Bristol Cathedral Choir school. I lived in central Bristol before moving to Iron Acton so have never had a child attend primary school locally but I am closely involved with the local community. I am a nurse consultant at Bristol Children's

Hospital and am passionate about helping all children achieve their potential but particularly those with Special Educational Needs or chronic health conditions.



**Ben Clarke- Co-opted Governor** -I have been a co-opted Governor at Iron Acton Primary School since 2015 and during that time have been a member of both the 'Standards & Achievement' and 'Finance & Resources' committees. For the past few years I have also taken the lead on Pupil Premium. For those that don't know, this is an additional grant provided to publicly funded schools to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. This means that if your child qualifies for free school meals, even if they are in Reception, Yr 1 or Yr 2 and get them anyway, by completing a form (available from the office) you can ensure that the school receives extra money to help with your child's education. My role involves working with the Senior Leadership team to ensure this extra funding is spent in the most effective way and achieves the greatest impact. It will be particularly important this year after the disruption to learning over the past couple of terms.

I currently live in Rangeworthy and have two children, one in Year 5 at Iron Acton and one who has just started KLB in Year 7

**Tom Wilmers- Associate Governor**- My name is Tom Wilmers. I have two children at Hawkesbury School and I work as a Commercial Manager, procuring jobs, placing contracts and looking after project finances in the construction industry. I believe our schools are at the heart of our communities and although I've never been part of a school governing body before, I'm keen to help the Pinnacle Foundation progress and develop.



**Rob Taylor** I'm very pleased to become a governor within the new Pinnacle Schools Federation, having previously served for 10 years in the Resources (finance) Committee on the Iron Acton Governing Board, holding the school to account for budget spend and performance management, during a period of expansion. I have three children, who have all gone/going through Iron Acton Primary school, am active in the community and a local employer.



**Adam Dinham- Foundation Governor.** I have been a governor at Iron Acton School for 3 years as chair of ethos committee and safeguarding lead. In that role I have led a review of vision and ethos to better reflect the new OFSTED framework and the SIAMS inspection framework, especially the emphasis on courageous advocacy. In my full time professional role I research religion and belief in the public sphere and have published extensively on school RE and its relationship to citizenship, British values, SMSC, PSHE and RSE. I have been able to bring this experience to my role as governor to date and feedback suggests this has been helpful.



**Kathryn Kempster** I worked in the education sector for over thirty years, up until my retirement three years ago. The majority of my career was in Primary Schools specialising in Early Years. My final role was as Deputy Head of a maintained Nursery School and Childrens Centre Leader. As well as my teaching and leadership experience I sat on a number of school Governing Boards as a parent, staff representative and as a co- opted governor. Last year I joined Hawkesbury Primary School Governing Board.

My professional skills and experiences include; Strategic improvement and raising standards through coaching, mentoring, professional development and accountability and Safeguarding and Multi – Agency working.

I look forward to being part of the recently formed Pinnacle Federation and sharing my skills, experience and insight.

**We are delighted to be involved with both Hawkesbury and Iron Acton Schools and are looking forward to working together as The Pinnacle Schools Federation and being part of your schools community.**