

# Amotherby School

2023

## Governors Newsletter

As we start the new year, we thought it would be a suitable time to introduce ourselves and also offer a little window into the world of school governance.

So what do governors actually do?

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. We enable Amotherby school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside Mrs Wanless and Miss Cooper and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children. Being a school governor is a commitment to attending 6 governing body meetings a year which consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes.

We are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders. Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit from collaborating with skilled volunteers, for example anyone with experience of finance, law, premises management or human resources. A governor with business know-how can transform the running of a school.

**As a governor we are not involved with the day-to-day running of the school.**



## Governors Core Responsibility

**Establishing the strategic direction by:**

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

**Ensuring accountability by:**

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

**Ensuring financial integrity by:**

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed.

# Who are the governors at Amotherby

## **Paul Simpson** – Chair of governors

Paul started off as a parent governor in 2013 and has been part of two OFSTED reviews, both coming out as good. Paul was appointed Chair of Governors in 2019 after completing the leading governance training in 2018. His biggest challenges to date in this role has been the retirement of a respected head teacher followed by the recruitment and appointment a new head teacher during a pandemic. He is very thankful to have got this right and also to have such great staff at Amotherby School.

## **Roy Halpin**

Roy began his teaching career in the previous millennium, specialising in teaching A-level geography and geology. He subsequently moved into college teacher education and enjoyed a decade working with adults as they developed their own teaching careers.

## **Emma Taylor**

Emma has one child at Amotherby school and another at Malton secondary school, and she is delighted to be a parent governor. Emma is passionate about learning and helping each student reach their full potential, so the role of parent governor is a great way for her to help the school to achieve this.

## **Kieran Owen**

Keiran was appointed as a co-opted governor in October 2022. He has worked in local government for 9 years as a Senior Finance Officer and is looking forward to using this experience to assist Amotherby School.

Keiran has a daughter in Year 1 and a son in pre-school. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, running and watching football.

## **David Martin**

David Has been a Governor since 2017. David is a Chartered Accountant, with over 30 years' experience managing various commercial businesses, and has a degree in the Performing Arts.

He is the Governor with specific responsibility for overseeing the school's finances. His son was at Amotherby for 5 years, giving him an insight into a parent's perspective on the school, but now that his son has moved on to secondary school, he is able to approach governance with an added degree of independence.

## **Stewart Morris** – Vice chair

Stewart joined the governing board as a parent governor in November 2021, and is Vice Chair and Safeguarding Lead.

He has three children at Amotherby School, with a fourth in pre-school. He has over 20 years experience in criminal justice, both on the front line in prisons and more recently in the Ministry of Justice, developing evidenced based national policies and supporting prison governors and probation leaders to develop and improve practice.

## **Kim Cooper** – Staff Governor

Kim began working at Amotherby School nearly 12 years ago. After graduating with a Teaching and English degree, she taught abroad before returning to England to begin her teaching career. At Amotherby school, she has taught in EYFS and KS1 and currently teaches in our Year 4 class 3 days a week. She joined the school as an NQT and is currently doing lots of roles such as Assistant Headteacher, SENCO, deputy safeguarding lead and Class Teacher.

Kim began her Governor role in 2020 and looks forward to working with the other Governors to secure the best outcomes for our pupils.



## PTA

Without doubt one of the continued biggest challenges for the school and governors is balancing the books and the cost-of-living crisis just adds even further strain on the school finances. That's why its so great to see the PTA up and running again.

The PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, with a mission to make the school a better place for children to learn. Amotherby Primary School PTA brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the PTA for their great ideas and the funds they have raised to date has already started to make a difference.

If you fancy getting involved, be that on the committee or if your happy to help on the odd event, then please let the office know and they will pass on your details.

Or just keep attending the events and enjoying the community they are helping to create.