

Meet the School Governors

As School Governors, we help to shape school policies and the aims of the school, enabling our excellent teachers to focus on delivering high-quality educational experiences for all of the children in St James'. Our role is strategic; and Governors do not get involved in the day-to-day operational running of the school. As Governors, our role is to ensure high standards of achievement for all children by:

- Planning and setting the school's vision and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school.

I'm Stephen; I'm a retired Civil Servant and I've been a St James Governor for 32 years, the last three as Chair. All four of my children went to the school, back in the day. Among many other things, I enjoy choral singing, going for long walks, and supporting Harlequins RFC



Stephen Pollard, Chairperson



I was born in Pembury hospital and went to school in Tunbridge Wells so am a true "born and bred" local. I have been in teaching for the last 25 years and, during that time, have worked in London, Maidstone and three schools in Tunbridge Wells. I joined St James' as the junior headteacher in April 2012 and then led the whole school from September 2017. We have been through 3 Ofsted and 3 SIAMS inspections together, as well as a pandemic; I am truly proud of our school and our community and how they all pulled together to meet each and every challenge.

John Tutt, Head Teacher/Governor

I'm Judi and I have been a governor for two years. I am the Vicar of St James Church and I used to have a son at St James School. I love running and making friends sometimes even at the same time!



**Judi Hammill, Deputy Chairperson
SEND & Pupil Premium**






I'm Nina and I have two children at the school. I work in transport and am passionate about the role of buses in local transport networks. I love visiting the library, reading fiction, listening to podcasts (especially when combined with drinking tea) and camping.

**Nina Skomorowski-Brown, Deputy
Chairperson, Foundation Governor
Safeguarding**

I began my career in Hampshire and then relocated to Kent in 2017 when I became the Deputy Head of the old junior school. In 2019, I became the Deputy Head of the amalgamated primary school. I cannot believe how quickly the past 7 years have flown by and am incredibly grateful to be part of such a wonderful school community. In my spare time I enjoy paddleboarding and going to CrossFit classes, although I am very much an amateur at both!



	<p>Lucy Hayward, School Teacher Governor</p>
	<p>I'm Suzie. I have been a governor at St James' for eight years and my two children attended the school from 2011 to 2020. I work on public safety and in my free time I love baking, singing and long country walks.</p>
<p>Suzie Toombs, Foundation Governor Curriculum Monitoring</p>	
<p>I'm Shaun, and I have been a parent governor for four years. I have two children in year 3 in the school, and have also seen my older children go through the school successfully. In my day job I work on financial support for disabled people. I enjoy walking, but a big family means I don't get out nearly enough.</p>	
<p>Shaun Butcher, Parent Governor Finance</p>	
	<p>I have enjoyed being a parent governor at St James since 2019. With one child currently at the school and another having recently left for secondary school, I have seen the full St James' school experience from start to finish. My particular governor responsibilities include looking at the school curriculum and its impact on the children's learning. I love music, singing enthusiastically in a local choir and learning to play the violin (with earplugs!).</p>
<p>Catherine Palmer, Parent Governor Curriculum Monitoring</p>	

My daughter had the privilege of attending St. James Infant School. As a school governor at St. James, I am grateful for the opportunity to apply my experience in Medical Education to assist the Governing Board, Head teacher and School Leadership. Serving in this capacity is fulfilling, and I take pride in being able to contribute to the ongoing success of St James.



Osei Kankam, Foundation Governor



I have been a Foundation Governor since January 2024. I run my own business and have three children who attend Rusthall St. Pauls where I also serve on the Governing Board. I can usually be found running the BBQ at most village events!

Richard Mackintosh, Foundation Governor

I'm Laura and I'm a Parent Governor. I have a daughter in the juniors and another who left St James in 2023. I work as a content designer. Outside of work, I'm a keen (but novice) gardener and enjoy singing in a choir.



**Laura McNerlin, Parent Governor
Health & Safety**

I am a teaching assistant at the school; prior to this I ran the Breakfast and After school club for ten years. I have a long association with the school and St James church. I am a Lay Minister and was a pupil at St James school a long time ago; and my children went to St James also quite a long time ago. I had one term in the new school in Sandrock road before going to Bennett! I have three grown up children, five soon to be six grandchildren and two very spoilt Ginger cats.



Mandy Baker, Foundation Governor



I have been working in the education sector for over 10 years in a variety of project management, governance, communications and HR roles. I am really passionate about supporting schools to give pupils the best possible opportunities.

In my free time I enjoy long walks around Tunbridge Wells with our cocker spaniel and am kept busy running around after my toddler.

Jasmin Chudasama, Foundation Governor

Our family has one child at St James' and another yet to join, so our family will have a direct relationship with the School until 2033; I am personally motivated and feel duty bound to support the School leadership team, hold them to account as a "critical friend" and uphold the values of the School where every child can flourish. I am a company Director in the Advisory Sector with experience in Executive Search, Performance Management, Board Dynamics, and Corporate Finance working in and advising private and listed businesses as well public sector and not for profit organisations. I have a good grasp of financial management and health & safety.



Mark Beacom, Foundation Governor

All School Governing Boards are supported by a Professional Clerk whose role is to:

- Provide effective administrative support to the governing body and its committees including minute taking and arranging meetings.
- Ensure the governing body has the appropriate members.
- Manage all governing body information effectively in accordance with legal requirements.

Our Governing Board is supported by Sarah, who is a fantastic and knowledgeable Clerk.

Contacting the Governors

If you have an issue at school or feedback on how the school can be improved, we always recommend you speak first to your Class Teacher or a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team (Mr Tutt, Miss Hayward, Mrs Wardell, Miss Greenfield). However, you can also contact Stephen as Chair of Governors by emailing his governor email address: SPollard@st-james.kent.school.uk

Minutes of Board Meetings

If you are interested in what the School Governors discuss, then please do look at the (non-confidential) minutes of Full Governing Board meetings which are available on the school website.