

Theresa Worrall – Chair of Governors

I am a mum of 3, all of whom are quite grown up now. I have worked in Children's Ministry for the last 15 years and am currently a schools' worker for Hope Community Church in Runcorn. As such, I have been involved in a variety of primary schools, taking assemblies and assisting with RE in both state and C of E schools.

I feel very honoured to have been asked to be a part of the Governing Body at St. Mary's as I feel a Christian based education is a good foundation for future success spiritually, emotionally, and academically.

I hope that I can continue to serve the families and children at St. Mary's for many years to come.

Cassie Whittaker - Parent Governor

I was delighted to take up the role as parent governor in early spring 2017.

I have 2 sons both in KS1 at St Mary's, who I hope will continue to thrive in this dynamic and stimulating environment that the school provides - something I also wanted to be involved in from the start.

I hope to be able to represent other parents to ensure that our school provides the best opportunities and experiences for our children, whilst helping them to achieve through education.

My career background has primarily been within the Civil Service, working for Cheshire and Merseyside Magistrates' Courts however, as my passion developed in helping in education, I took the leap to embrace a career in teaching and will complete my Teaching Assistant qualification by summer 2018- whilst also working within the school.

I hope that my skills and experiences will be of benefit to the governing body and the school, and I really look forward to working with all children, staff and families within the school community.

In my free time, I enjoy running, going to the gym and enjoying the great outdoors with my family.

Christine Elizabeth Pownall – Parent Governor

First and foremost, I am mum to 3 lovely boys and wife to Dr Ian Pownall, senior lecturer in Business Management at Chester University. I also happen to be a teacher, with a palpable passion for my specialism subject of English.

I completed a first-class honours degree in Primary Teaching. My specific teacher training was across key-stage (KS) 2 classes, where my English teaching was identified as being outstanding both by university tutors and Ofsted inspectors. I love the look on a child's face when they have become completely lost in a text.

I undertook my teaching degree as mature student and successfully managed to bring up two children whilst performing at a high level at university both professionally and academically. This is an important index of my engagement, commitment and determined nature.

English as an academic area is subject to a range of interpretive and occasionally competing perspectives; however, my personal view is that literature is capable of being a transforming and affective experience for a young person and that pupils should have access to the highest quality literary and linguistic experiences. To that extent I believe we have a responsibility to encourage children to engage with high quality literature and develop established awareness.

At the same time English should engage with the immediate experience of the pupils and relate to their personal and social development. I see English as providing life-enhancing potential beyond the confines of the classroom.

I have highly developed interpersonal skills and competencies, have a lively sense of humour and balance. I have high standards personally and professionally and take pride in succeeding to the best of my abilities. Joining the governing body of St Mary's CE School is a privilege and an honour and I intend to use my skills and attributes to serve the entire school community as best I can.

Tony Mitchell – Foundation Governor

I am the vicar of St Mary's Church as well as of Christ Church, Castlefields. As the vicar of St Mary's, I am automatically one of the Foundation Governors of the school. I have been vicar/foundation governor since May 2010. In my second year I became chair of the governors and stepped aside to become vice-chair in 2016.

I was born and brought up in Port Elizabeth, South Africa and came to England in October 1999. Prior to going to vicar school, I had been involved in computers, both programming them and then supporting them. I finished that role in September 2005 whilst working for Heinz in Wigan.

I enjoy following English cricket, tennis and Formula One and I am an avid reader. I am married to Lorna.

Each week I am at the school joining in lessons with the children, taking Collective Worship and generally getting involved with whatever is needed. I love spending time with the children – they all know me and I think that's great.

I am Vice chair of the Governing Body and also sit on the Admissions Committee. I am always available if anyone wants to come and talk to me.

Antoinette Woodhead – Foundation Governor

I have been a governor here for two years. I have two adult children and two grandchildren. I am a retired secondary school teacher and have found working in the primary school to be very interesting and rewarding. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff and pupils and how well this school works. I love watching and taking part in lessons and listening to the children read.

Patricia Davies – Foundation Governor

I am a mum of 2 grown up children, and a Nana to 3 beautiful grandchildren, two of whom attend St Mary's. My links with St Mary's go back a number of years as both my grown up children attended nursery / school here. My children were also baptised at St Mary's Church.

I am a qualified signer (British Sign Language) and have worked within the deaf and Deafblind community for 16 years. I worked both in Primary and Secondary schools supporting deaf children in school, ensuring they had full access to the curriculum. I also regularly translate church services within the deaf community.

I have recently spent 6 weeks giving the pre summer year 3 pupils at St Mary's a taster of British sign language, which was warmly received by the children and year 3 teacher and I am looking forward to doing the same with the new year 3 class.

I currently work for the NHS as a secretary and in my spare time (when I get some) I love to walk my two little dogs and spend time with my family.

I feel very honoured to be appointed as a Foundation Governor of such a lovely school and hope that my skills can be of use to the governing body.