

CROMWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Governor Pen Pictures

Jane Bates

I became a Parent Governor when my daughter was a pupil. When she left in 2011, I carried on as a co-opted Governor. I was employed as a nurse in my working life but retired in 2016. This has helped me on the Ethos and Partnership, Health and Safety and Finance and Resources committees. I have been Chair of Governors for a couple of years now, and try to work with everyone involved with school to continue to maintain our reputation and strive for improvement

Claire Bibby

Background to my past career:

After graduating in psychology, I took a teaching qualification and spent 18 years teaching a variety of subjects in primary, middle and secondary schools, as well as pre-school and adult education. I then worked for the local council for 17 years, starting in the Special Educational Needs section and finally managing a range of education services as Assistant Director in Children's Services. Perhaps more importantly, I have spent nearly 40 years as a wife and mother of two sons.

Why I am a Governor:

I have a passion for making sure that all young people have an opportunity to succeed to the best of their ability. My career has been about promoting inclusion and (so far as is possible) eliminating the damaging effects of inequality. I also have a continuing interest and curiosity in child development and the practice of teaching. Finally, I decided when I left the council's employment that this was my chance to give something back to a community which had given me so many opportunities. Volunteering as a governor at Cromwell lets me combine all these.

My role on the Governing Body:

In general, as governors our role is to make sure the budget is well-spent, to encourage where that is right and to provide a constructive and supportive critique when we wonder if things might be done better. As Vice Chair, my job is to support Jane, our Chair, in making sure that we are as strong a governing body as Cromwell needs and deserves, so that we can continue to provide outstanding education for our pupils. I am the link governor for both literacy and numeracy, which brings me regularly into school to see teachers in action and to talk to the relevant co-ordinators about how things are going. I also chair the Standards and Curriculum and the Teaching and Learning subcommittees, where we scrutinise those four aspects of school life and act as a critical friend to the staff.

Paul Wray

Background:

Parent of Year 9 pupil Max Wray, currently in SA. I have my own business as a cabinet maker and furniture installer of Bespoke Kitchens, Bedrooms and Storage Solutions. I also have many years' experience working in a management role, employing staff in a production and manufacturing environment (Diploma in Supervisory Management, NEBBS).

Reasons for being a Parent Governor:

To be able to help make a difference for our children and their future. Also, to gain an understanding of how schools are governed and managed.

Janet Rothwell

I am exams officer for school and was previously a TA4 in school. I have worked within the field of learning disability in education and social services since 1982; except for a few years where I worked in staff training and development in care before lecturing at a local college in Early Years Care and Education and Health and Social Care.

I became a governor to liaise with colleagues to help raise standards for all including teaching and learning and health and safety, which are the two committees I sit on.

Linda Lester

Background to my past career:

I have recently retired following a long career in teaching I spent all my career working with young children with disabilities and I have had several roles including class teacher, pre-school peripatetic teacher of children with complex needs and a member of the senior leadership team Oakdale School in Dukinfield. I have had a number of leadership roles including head of department, deputy Headteacher and more recently as Headteacher of Oakdale School.

Why I am a Governor:

One of my reasons for becoming a governor was to get more involved in the community where I live and I have been a Tameside resident for over 30 years. I have a commitment to Cromwell and I am very keen to use my skills to serve the school and its' young people and their families I am very passionate about ensuring that every student has the opportunity to fulfil their very unique potential and I believe that my role as one of the governors at Cromwell School can support this aim.

I am very fortunate to have known some Cromwell students because of many of them were pupils at Oakdale and I am very excited to see them grow and mature to be the best that they can be.

My role on the Governing Body:

I am link governor for 3C and a member of the Teaching and Learning and Health and Safety committees.

Steve Sanderson

I have always had a strong interest in education and helping to facilitate all students to reach their maximum potential for preparation in the wider world.

I have previously been a member of a primary school governing body for several years, chairing their Premises and Finance committee and acting as the school's Health and Safety Governor.

My career background is one of working in both the private and public sectors focusing on logistics, business processes and Customer Service. I am currently working for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. I have worked as a school business manager in both the primary and secondary sectors for several years, so have considerable experience of school budgets.

I hope that I can add to the expertise of the Cromwell Governing Body to help make the experience Cromwell High school the very best it can be for all members of its community both current and future.

Suzanne Pass

Background

I am currently the Director of Educational Excellence for Kingfisher Learning Trust and have worked within special education for the last twenty years, initially as a teacher and then as Assistant Head. My role now involves working across all schools in the Trust, both mainstream and special with a particular focus on inclusive practice and quality of education. I have led whole school development over many years particularly in the areas of curriculum and assessment. I have been part of the school leadership team as the school converted to a multi academy trust and have also had a significant role in the application for and opening of a new special free school, Halcyon Way. Most recently I have led the establishment of the collaboration of special schools across neighbouring authorities, including Cromwell and it has been really beneficial to build relationships and share knowledge and experience for the good of all. I am part of a three year project in Oldham, working with other stakeholders to address the issue of exclusion in schools through which we hope to identify, address and improve outcomes for young people at risk of exclusion, many of whom have additional needs. I hope to be able to use my knowledge, skills and experience in school leadership to contribute to the continued effective governance at Cromwell.

Why I'm a Governor

I have been closely involved in school governance over the years, attending and reporting to the Governing Board at Kingfisher and in more recent years the Trust Board, preparing and presenting to governors and Trustees as part of my role. I hope to be able to offer challenge and support in the role of governor at Cromwell which will further serve to enhance the effectiveness of the school.

On a personal level, my youngest son has Down Syndrome and as a parent and stakeholder in the quality of specialist provision in Tameside, I feel invested in contributing to the core offer for children with additional needs in my area. I hope to be able to utilize both my professional and personal experience to fulfil the role of school governor.

Role on the governing body

I am a member of the Implementation committee with a focus on quality of education and the implementation of high-quality provision. As a link governor, I have a particular interest in Communication, inclusion and enrichment opportunities.

Dan Higgins

'Everybody Can' Manager at Active Tameside. A provider of After School and Holiday provision for pupils from Cromwell and a post 19yrs destination for many Cromwell students.

Michelle Talbot

Staff Governor – teacher at Cromwell in the Structured Department since 2019.

Andrew Foord

Headteacher at Cromwell since April 2003. Previous experience in SLD schools in Trafford, Skelmersdale and Blackburn. See Headteacher's Welcome and Statement under "School Info", "General Info".

Link Governors

The role of the Link Governor is to provide a link between the Governing Board and the school. When Link Governors visit the school and report back to the Governing Board they help to deepen all governors' understanding of how the school operates, how the strategic objectives are being pursued, how financial resources are being used and what extra support the school may need to meet its objectives. Without Link Governors, the Governing Board is totally reliant on the Headteacher, or other staff governors, for their understanding of the school. The presence of Link Governors provides an additional source of evidence upon which governing decisions can be made. This additional evidence should enable the Governing Body to better challenge information presented by the school and also better support the school to meet its strategic objectives.

At Cromwell High School, we ask our Link Governors to:

- Gain insight into the life of the school
- Create and develop relationships with staff, children and where appropriate parents
- Better understand the Governors roles in raising standards

- Enable a deeper understanding of the school's current performance, practice, strengths and areas for further development.
- Observe policies and plans being implemented on a day-to-day basis

What is the purpose of Link Governor Visits?

- To increase the governing board's first-hand knowledge about the school and its daily operation; thus helping to inform ongoing and future strategic decision making
- Monitor how the school is managing areas for further development
- Demonstrate to staff that the Governing Board takes its responsibilities very seriously
- See in context the monitoring systems employed by the school
- They provide OFSTED with concrete evidence about the involvement of the governors in the school