

Meet the Governors



Tom Gray – Chair/LA Governor

I have lived and worked in West Sussex for my entire life, and I'm keen on providing something back to the local community that has provided so much for me.

I have worked as a software developer for a little over 10 years, and have produced, managed and maintained simulation products primarily in the air training and simulation domain, but more recently within the space and maritime sectors.

I'm passionate about all things Science, Maths and Engineering, and outside of computers I pretty much play and/or watch any sport! I'm eager to bring my enthusiasm in these areas to the Governor role at Thakeham, but also to continue to learn about and contribute to other areas – I firmly believe you are never too old to learn something new.

Keeley Houston – Executive Headteacher (ex-officio Governor)

I am thrilled to be the new Executive Head Teacher at Thakeham Primary School. I am passionate about education and inspiring young hearts and minds to become life-long learners.

I have been a teacher for at least 20 years and have worked mostly in the Primary sector. For the past 10 years I have been the Headteacher of a small, successful and thriving primary school in West Sussex, so I am thrilled to be able to share the best bits of each of our schools as we work in partnership together this academic year.

Alan Hunt – Co-Opted Governor

My wife Emilie and I have been married for 55 years, have two grown-up daughters and three grandchildren with ages 11, 16 and 24. We have lived in Thakeham for the past 25 years. Before that we spent some 30 years in postings around the world whilst I was working as a project manager for a major oil company. My work has taken us to Holland, Nigeria, Qatar, Brunei, USA and Peru as well as a short spell here in UK. We have been extremely fortunate to have experienced first-hand the diversity of cultures, races and religions in these countries. I have been a Thakeham Parish counsellor for over 10 years and recently was also chair of the board of trustees for Thakeham Pre School and nursery. I hope that my extensive life experiences will be valuable in my support for both the board of governors and the school headmaster and look forward to being involved with TPS.

Emily West – Staff Governor

I am the class teacher of the Year 1 / 2 class at Thakeham Primary School. Before coming to Thakeham I worked in a reception class for 2 years. I have worked at Thakeham since September 2023 and have enjoyed the journey so far. As well as being class teacher, I am subject lead for Reading, Writing and Maths in Key Stage 1. I am excited to be Staff Governor to make sure that the link between the staff and governors is positive, as well as being part of the children's journey. Thakeham is a truly wonderful place that every child in nurtured and encouraged to fulfil their full potential.

James Smith – Parent Governor

I am delighted to join the Board of Governors at Thakeham Primary School as a Parent Governor. As a parent, I have seen first-hand the positive impact the school has on its pupils, and I am passionate about supporting its continued success. I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive in an environment that is safe, inclusive and inspiring, and I am proud to play a part in helping the school achieve this.

Professionally, I work as a Logistics Director, leading large operational teams and managing complex business activities globally from our HQ in Slinfold. My career has given me extensive experience in leadership, strategy, governance, risk management, financial oversight and driving continuous improvement. I hope to bring these skills to the governing board, helping to provide effective challenge, support and accountability to ensure the school delivers the very best outcomes for its pupils.

I firmly believe that strong schools are built on positive relationships between pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. Governors play an important role in supporting school leaders, setting strategic direction and ensuring resources are used effectively to create the best possible learning environment. I am keen to contribute to this work and to support the school's long-term development.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, keeping active and supporting local community initiatives. Becoming a governor is an opportunity for me to give something back to a school that plays such an important role in the lives of local children and families.

I look forward to working alongside fellow governors, school leaders, staff and parents to help Thakeham Primary School continue to flourish.

Rebecca B – Parent Governor