

Beaconhill Community Primary School

Meet the Governors



Meet Our Governors

Our Governing Body is made up of a group of volunteers who give up their time to support, guide and challenge the work of the school to improve outcomes and help move the school forward. Below you will find a brief outline of who the governors are and a little bit about them.

| Name | Role | Biography | Photograph |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|------------|
| Philip Watters | Chair of Governors (Co-Opted) | <p>Having moved to Cramlington in early 2017 with my wife Louise and our three daughters Madeleine, Elizabeth and Annabelle, I wanted to find something that would help us get to know the area and community that we have moved to. Helping as the Chair of Governor at Beaconhill Primary School feels like the perfect opportunity to not only get to know but to support our new community and School at the same time. I have worked for Network Rail having started as an apprentice in 2002, my current role of Signalling and Telecoms Engineer is one that I enjoy immensely and has given me a wide range of both Technical and Leadership skills. During my time with Network Rail I have grown to become a firm believer of continuous improvement and I hope that the experience and skills I have can be used to help Beaconhill continue to grow. In my spare time I enjoy cycling and reading but you'll mostly find me with my "Daddy Pig" jacket on chasing round after our three girls or marching them up Northumberlandia in a desperate attempt to wear them out!</p> | |

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| Joel Routledge | Headteacher | <p>I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of Beaconhill Community Primary School. I started my teaching career in 2011 at Seaton Sluice First School where I worked for four years in Key Stage One. I then moved to King Edward Primary School in North Shields where I worked as Assistant Headteacher, Maths Leader, Key Stage One Leader and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead before taking up the headship here in 2022. I fully believe in creating memorable learning experiences which engage and enthuse children. I believe that it is our responsibility as school leaders to cultivate an environment where all children have the opportunity to be happy, express themselves and fulfil their potential. We have a hard working and dedicated staff team who do their best every day to support our learners and their families. Our motto, '<i>where children matter</i>' is one which I firmly endorse and is clearly evident across school. I live in Newcastle with my wife and our son, Patrick. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family here and in Ireland and can often be found outside running (albeit rather slowly these days). I've supported Newcastle United since I was little and sit in the Gallowgate end with my two younger brothers.</p> | |
| Rachael Robinson | Deputy Headteacher | <p>I have worked at Beaconhill Primary School since 1996 and have predominantly worked in Early Years. I became Deputy Headteacher in 2021 and enjoy the role enormously. I have developed a keen interest in Maths across school and especially in the Early Years. I have worked closely with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics for several years. As part of this work, I trained as a Teaching for Mastery Specialist and have worked with schools across the region to develop their Maths practice. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the gym and running. I live close to the beach and enjoy spending time there with my husband and our two children Tom and Meg. I have also been a Newcastle United season ticket holder for over 40 years!</p> | © Tempes |

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| Paula Allen | Co-Opted Governor | <p>I have been a Governor at Beaconhill Primary since 2014. I am working with school staff to develop a general specialism in EYFS and SEN. I have been working with children for over 20 years, first starting as a private nanny. I have since had my own family and both my children have attended Beaconhill. I became a Governor because I think it is important to know your child's school and to take an interest in what happens at that school. I enjoy being part of decision making and making myself more knowledgeable. Most of my hobbies and interests relate to my children- we enjoy bike rides, cinema trips and spending lots of time with my family. We also enjoy our annual holiday to Scotland.</p> | |
| Nicola Andrews | Staff Governor | <p>I have been a teacher since 2007 and began teaching at Beaconhill in 2010. I have a keen interest in teaching Maths and Music. I joined the governing body in 2018. Beaconhill is a fantastic place to work because of the team ethos and because the families and children are wonderful to work with. I am lucky enough to have taught almost every child in the school. I teach in Nursery alongside a brilliant team and every day is different! I live in Cramlington so I often bump into the children when I'm out walking with my children and pet dog in the evening. I am a keen singer and a member of Cramlington Community Choir and often perform locally.</p> |  © Tempest |

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| David Anthony | Co-Opted Governor | <p>This is my first opportunity to be a Governor. I am looking forward to learning the role and expanding my knowledge on the school where my two sons have attended. I love to help the community and I am hopeful that I can bring new ideas to the school governing body and help support the hard working staff. I have worked full time in the Civil Service for nearly 20 years. I am involved in 4x4 Response North East as a coordinator and membership lead, CAMRA and a number of other charities and organisations. I have a knowledge of outdoor activities and love to go camping with my family. I love to bake and cook with my sons.</p> | |
| Lucy Laidler | Co-Opted Governor | <p>I am delighted to be part of the governing body at Beaconhill Primary. Although I worked in business for many years, I currently work as a Year 6 teacher and Assistant Headteacher at a school in North Tyneside where I understand the challenges facing children and families. I am committed to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life through excellent teaching and learning in schools, and 'We teach at the beach' is an ethos I support 100%. Although I now live at the coast with my husband and two daughters, I spent my formative years in Cramlington so it's a real joy to be back in the area where my own school days were spent. I am thrilled to see so many positive changes within school, even since I started as a governor here just two years ago. I absolutely love being part of this inspirational school community at Beaconhill.</p> | |

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| Jade Davis | Parent Governor | <p>I am delighted to be a new Parent Governor and be given the opportunity to bring some of my childcare skills and experience to the team. Childcare is a real passion of mine and has been for over 19 years. I have a wealth of knowledge and experience that I look forward to building on with a great team. My husband and I live within our community with our two children who attend Beaconhill. As a parent, I have always been a huge advocate for Beaconhill as it has such a great sense of community spirit. I run a small business within the community and have received the most amazing amount of support over the past five years so it would be great to give something back. When I am not juggling being a busy Mam with a career I am so passionate about, I can be found enjoying family walks with our beloved dog Beast, reading and making memories with family and friends.</p> | |
| Sophie Meller | Local Authority Governor | <p>I am delighted to have been appointed as a Local Authority Governor to Beaconhill Community Primary School. As Associate Head of the School of Communities and Education at Northumbria University, I lead Initial Teacher Education programmes and work strategically with colleagues to shape the next generation of teachers. My career has been dedicated to education. Before joining Northumbria University, I served as a teacher and leader in schools across Gateshead and North Tyneside, giving me first-hand understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing primary schools. This classroom and leadership experience informs my current work in teacher training and ensures I remain connected to the realities of school life. I believe that education empowers learners and that inclusive practice is fundamental to effective teaching. I am committed to creating environments where every child can thrive, and I was honoured to receive Northumbria's Student Led Teaching Award for 'Best Lecturer', with students highlighting my positive attitude, ability to create comfortable learning spaces, and commitment to listening to all voices. I would bring strategic planning experience, deep knowledge of educational pedagogy, and a</p> | |

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genuine passion for inclusive practice to the governing board. I am eager to contribute my expertise whilst learning from fellow governors, staff, and the school community to support our school's continued success.