Meet Pirton School's Governors

Co-Chair	**Owain Lister**	I have lived in Pirton with my wife Julie for 38 years and our sons, now 35, went to Pirton school. We have both been active in the community over that time. My background as a manager in the construction industry has given me building knowledge, people management skills and other experience of use to the governing body. I was actively involved with the pavilion building project at the Rec and am chair of trustees of a local homelessness charity. Living in Pirton is a privilege and the school is a very important part of village life so being a governor enables me to make a contribution to our fantastic community. I sit on the Resources/Premises committee.	

Co-Chair	**Valerie Hudson**	I am a retired Primary Head Teacher and I have been working and volunteering in education for over thirty years. I have served on a number of governing boards across all phases, often providing support for schools in challenging situations. I am currently Vice-Chair of an Interim Executive Board for a secondary school in Hertfordshire. I have expertise in staff performance management (including Head Teachers), managing complaints/concerns, staff disciplinary and capability procedures, building high-performance teams through coaching and managing difficult situations. I sit on the Teaching and Learning committee and lead on Safeguarding.	

Vice Chair of Governors	**Vanessa Cole**	Having lived in Pirton for 28 years, I am delighted to be involved with our vibrant, happy school, at the centre of village life. I am married, have two grown up daughters. My professional background was in Local Government as an Environmental Health Officer and Manager. I am also chair of the Pirton Pumpkin Club, which through village events, raises money to put back into village initiatives and I am the course manager for Bedfordshire Youth Opera, a summer course for young people. I sit on the Teaching and Learning committee and lead on Curriculum alongside Michaela Lalite. I am the Link Governor for SEND and Pupil Premium.	

	Ed Williamson	I have lived in Pirton for 5 years with my wife and recently welcomed our young daughter to the world. I am a chartered engineer and scientist, having worked in the nuclear and defence sectors, and hope to contribute my experience of strategic thinking, analytical skills and an inquisitive attitude to the governing body. I am keen to give back to the local community in this role. I sit on the Resources/Premises committee and I am the link governor for Health and Safety.	

Jenn Magdeburg	I have been the Headteacher at Pirton School since September 2022 and so I am now in my fifth year of Headship here. The children I welcomed into school with me in 2022 are now in Year Four which never fails to amaze me – time flies! I sit on all the committees of the governing body and work with the governors by providing updates on the progress we are making in school as well as answering critical friend questioning. I am proud of the progress the school is making and continues to make. Most importantly I am delighted to come to work each day with my focus on supporting the school community and the wonderful children within it. I sit on both the Teaching & Learning and Resources & Premises committee.	

Chris Shellard	During my long career I have always felt passionate about education. I have served as a governor at several schools as well as working within LA education. I am committed to lifelong learning and the concept of partnership in striving for school improvement. Having moved to Pirton 4 years ago and about to leave paid employment, I would like to contribute to village life. Education has always featured in every aspect of my career, so it is an obvious choice.	

Sam McDonald	I have taught at Pirton School since 2016. However, my connection with the school began much earlier, during my first-year teaching placement in 2009. From that very first experience, I was struck by the school's warm, welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community. In February 2022, I was appointed as Staff Governor and currently serve as the Training and Development Governor. In this role, I am responsible for ensuring that all members of the governing body have access to appropriate, up-to-date training and development opportunities, enabling them to fulfil their roles effectively and support the continued success of our school. I chair the Teaching and Learning committee and have responsibility for governor training.	

Michaela Lalite	I have two children, one at Pre School and one currently attending the school in Year 4. We live in Hitchin but supporting the community and school is important to me. I was a beauty therapist for 14 years, I recently decided to withdraw from full time employment, taking on a more part time role so that I could focus on my children and finalise a part time honours degree in History. I sit on the Teaching and Learning committee and lead on Curriculum alongside Vanessa Cole.	