



Notre Dame Plymouth

Governors Profiles 2017-18

Foundation Governors

Mr Graham Johnson BPharm FInstLM (Chair of Governors)

Graham is a retired Royal Navy Captain and has been a longstanding Foundation Governor at Roman Catholic Secondary Schools in Plymouth. He is currently Chair of Governors at both Notre Dame School and St Boniface's Catholic College. He is also a Foundation Director of the Plymouth Catholic & Anglican Schools Trust (CAST).

Graham is married with 3 grown-up children and he and his wife are active, registered foster carers and established members of the parish community of St Peter's church in Crownhill, Plymouth.

Graham sits on the Resources, Standards and Admissions and Ethos committees. He also works closely with the Safeguarding and SEND teams at Notre Dame to ensure the best possible support and awareness for staff, students and governors.

Mrs Katherine White (Headteacher)

Kate has been the Headteacher at Notre Dame since 2012 and is a Foundation Governor. She attends all meetings in her capacity of both Headteacher and Governor.

Mrs Jane Bailey (Vice Chair of Governors)

Jane joined the Governing Body in March 2016 as an Associate Governor and became a Foundation Governor in September 2016. Having been a student here previously, Jane worked at Notre Dame for 32 years, firstly as a Peripatetic Teacher before taking on a permanent contract with the school and had been Head of Music since 2003 until her retirement in July 2016.

Jane chairs the Admissions and Ethos and sits on the Standards committees.

Dr Eric Tope

Eric is a retired headteacher of a South London Catholic secondary school and visiting fellow at St.Mary's University, Twickenham. He was educated at Holy Cross primary school and St.Boniface's College, Plymouth. He has wide experience of working with Catholic parents, governors and Headteacher's.

Eric lives in Derriford with his wife Maggie, they have four children and nine grandchildren, both in London and Melbourne, Australia. He has worked as a head of Mathematics in comprehensive and grammar schools and liaises with the Mathematics department at Notre Dame. Eric is also a governor at Keyham Barton Catholic primary school.

Eric sits on the Standards committee where he shares his vast experience of school leadership and management.

Mrs Virginia Berna

Ginny originally joined the Governing body as a parent governor in 2008 and subsequently became a Foundation Governor ; a role which she finds both challenging and immensely rewarding. As a Primary teacher herself, Ginny passionately believes in striving for the highest standards in and for each of our students.

Outside governing, Ginny is a music specialist teaching a range of instruments peripatetically. She combines this with running her dressmaking and alterations business which specializes in weddings, something she has done for over thirty years! She spent many years being a carer and for a long time was instrumental in setting up and running a support group for carers of those with brain injuries and sat on a Board of Trustees for Headway up in Hampshire.

Ginny feels one of the best decisions she has made was to send her daughters to Notre Dame. They both did really well here but not just academically. The school mission statement is not a set of hollow words. It is something Ginny sees at the heart of the school being lived out.

Ginny sits on the Standards and Admissions and Ethos Committees and for a time served as Vice and Chair of Standards.

Mr Stephen Hole

Steve served on the Devon County Council's Education Committee during the 1980's. He has been a governor since 1981 in a range of schools and has been a governor of Notre Dame since 1987. Steve's professional background is Engineering, Management and Health and Safety. He is a Chartered member of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Steve has always voluntarily given his time to various organisations and has been part of the Plymouth Charity Trust, which provides Alms house accommodation, since 1981 and he is currently the Chairman. Steve is also the Honorary Agent for the Shipwrecked Mariners Association which is a charity that looks after the surviving crews of merchant vessels and trawlers lost at sea.

To relax Steve has a great circle of friends and family as well as a dog who also wants some of his time!!

Steve sits on the Resources committee and is the lead Governor for Health and Safety.

Parent Governors

Mr Hadyn Loveless

Hadyn has been a parent governor for the last 4 years and was recently re-elected for another 4 year term. Having been involved with the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 25 years working for some of the largest companies in the world, Haydn brings a wealth of business experience to his role as Governor. Both his wife and eldest daughter are former pupils of Notre Dame and his youngest daughter is currently studying here.

In Hadyn's leisure time he likes to keep myself in shape with visits to the Gym, Gardening and watching rugby.

Haydn sits on the Resources committees.

Community Governors

Mr Paul Guildford

Paul has 35 years experience of working in the property development industry and is also a trustee at Plymouth Mind. He has 2 daughters who have both been students at Notre Dame, one still studying in 6th Form and the other has moved on to University. He was previously a Governor at Widey Court Primary School for 4 years.

Paul joined the Governing Body at Notre Dame in 2009 when he was first elected as Parent Governor. Subsequently, he was re-elected in 2013 for a further 4 year term.

When his term came to an end in 2017, Paul no longer had a child at Notre Dame. His fellow Governors did not want to lose the vast experience gained during his time as Parent Governor and he was delighted to be asked to remain as a Community Governor.

Paul currently chairs the Resources committee.

Staff Governors

Mr Paul Kent

Paul has been employed at Notre Dame as an ICT support technician since 2010. Before joining Notre Dame he completed a 22 year military career, encompassing a number of roles, serving at various locations. Paul decided to become a staff governor because he wanted to become actively involved in improving the school and helping with its development.

Paul had the privilege of being elected as a staff governor by fellow members of staff. Paul feels being a staff governor allows him a unique insight into the activities in the school. Paul firmly believes with staff, parent and community support Notre Dame Plymouth can be an outstanding school.

Paul sits on the Admissions and Ethos and Resources committees.

Mrs Charlotte Payne

Charlotte has been at Notre Dame since 2006 as a full time member of the support staff. During her time here she has taken on a non qualified teacher role as pastoral Head of Stang House in addition to her role as Cover Manager. It is a role that Charlotte particularly enjoys, having direct daily contact with students from all the year groups.

Charlotte had wanted to become a governor for some time, and was fortunate to be selected by her colleagues at around the time Notre Dame became an academy. Her role as a school governor is about being part of an integral team which is vital in helping to make a difference to children's education and the school's overall success. Charlotte cares greatly about education, and the role that Notre Dame has to play in the provision of it.

Charlotte sits on the Admissions and Ethos committee.

Mrs Andrea Casey

Andrea has been part of the Notre Dame team since 2005 and is Head of Drama. Andrea has a daughter at the School and her son joined the Sixth Form in Year 12.

Andrea sits on the Admissions and Ethos committee.