

## Governor Profile Helen Smith

In April 2015, I was elected to the governing body by the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church as one of the Foundation governors. Recently retired, it seemed a good way to serve the local community. As my background is in education and I had served on a governing body as elected teacher governor and as an associate member for 14 years, I had both knowledge and understanding of the important role governors play.

I was elected as Vice Chair in September 2015 and elected Chair in May 2017.

I am enjoying getting involved in the life of this lovely school. I serve on the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee and also meet every term with the Headteacher and a fellow governor to discuss issues relating to safeguarding. I am also responsible, with a fellow governor and an external advisor for the annual appraisal of the Headteacher. I led the working party which researched academy status and I am co-ordinating a team of governors who are regularly reviewing the working practices of the governing body for maximum effectiveness and impact.

On a personal note, I was born in Cumbria, obtained a degree in History and a post graduate certificate in education from Durham University. I moved to Wallington in 1987 via time in East Sussex. My career involved teacher training both at London University Institute of Education and the Open University. I taught in a Grammar School, Sixth Form College and inner city comprehensives. Prior to retirement, I was responsible for the discipline, welfare and guidance of around 900, 11-16 year old girls in a Church of England school. My master's degree focussed on ways of overcoming underachievement. I am married with two children, one who is autistic and received special education and one who attended a local Grammar school and university. I am therefore passionate on the importance of providing education to meet all needs.

I enjoy singing with the Carshalton Choral Society and the Sutton Chorale.