

Governor profile: Marion Williams

I was born on the Isle of Man into a Service family so moved a great deal as a child, from Aden to Abingdon, Romford and finally Herefordshire where I went to Lady Hawkins School – set up in 1620 by the widow of a Privateer, (or Pirate, as we preferred to claim).

I came down to London to study English at Kings College and loved the city so much I never really left except for a short period as a retail area manager in Manchester and Liverpool in the late 70's. I spent 8 years in fashion retail before leaving to look after my children and book keep for my husband in his building and joinery business.

We moved to Wallington and while at home I took on the local franchise for language clubs organizing and (sometimes teaching) weekly French, German and Spanish classes to 3-10 year olds across Sutton and Croydon, (though not at All Saints). I was constantly impressed at the way even very young children, regardless of any other ability, quickly picked up a new language, and with such good accents. The plays they performed for their parents, all in the target languages, were especially inspiring.

At the same time, I published a termly listing magazine for parents of young children – which helped me develop new skills in the use of databases, marketing and desktop publishing.

All three of my children enjoyed, and benefited from, an excellent education at local secondary schools – the boys at Sutton Grammar and my daughter at Wallington High; the youngest boy also attended Stanley Park Juniors. In 2000, I moved to Carshalton and worked at the FE College teaching English to refugees and asylum seekers, which was a very rewarding and often moving experience. Many ex-students still live in this area, successful and restored members of the community.

I spent 16 years at the college before retiring this January, first teaching English, maths and (very) basic ICT, later managing the Special Needs, Retail and Creative Industries departments as well as Student Support and School Links for 14-16s. Latterly I was the Quality Manager for both Kingston and Carshalton Colleges focusing on the quality of teaching and learning, as well as promoting the implementation of the ever more important issues of Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding/Child Protection and the 'Prevent' strategy in all its incarnations.

I worship at All Saints, remarried there in 2014, am the (newly appointed) secretary to the PCC and now very much looking forward to being reconnected with what I strongly believe to be the most important stage of a child's education – the firm foundations laid down at Primary school give children the tools and confidence to access any of the more specialized learning opportunities that come later, enabling them to make successful choices about their own futures.

In the school, I very much enjoy hearing Year 6 children read once a week.

Since joining the Board of Governors I have attended training on a wide range of topics and am gradually building up my understanding of the role. I am one of the Literacy Link Governors, and a member of the Faith Committee, as well as part of the group which is reviewing and revising the working practices of the governing body.