

Governor Profile - Helen Smith

I am delighted to be joining the governing body and look forward to getting involved in the life of the school.

I was brought up in Cumbria, then obtained a History degree and my teaching qualification at Durham University. Whilst there I met my future husband. Aged 22, I began my teaching career and life as a clergy wife in Sussex. We moved to Wallington in 1987.

I retired in August 2014. My experiences included training teachers at the Institute of Education and for the Open University and teaching in a sixth form college, a grammar school and inner city comprehensives. My research for my Masters' degree focussed on how to reduce underachievement. Prior to retirement, I was responsible for the discipline and pastoral care of around 900, 11 to 16 year old girls in a Church of England school. I served on the governing body for 12 years as elected teacher governor and then as a member of the senior leadership team.

My two children are now in their thirties. My son is autistic, which gives me an understanding of special educational needs and empathy with parents who struggle for support and inclusion. My daughter develops testing in English as an Additional Language for Trinity College.

I enjoy worshipping at All Saints Church and singing with Carshalton Choral Society. My involvement in education continues as an occasional tutor for children in foster care and as a tutor for EQualitas, who oversee the training of student teachers. I love the extra time which retirement offers for entertaining friends.