

Governor Profile - Penny Meakin

My first degree is in experimental Physics and I have a PhD in Microelectronics, so my interests tend towards the mathematical and scientific side though I have always encouraged and supported my children to develop their interests in whatever area they lie. I have four daughters. They started their education in Yochien and Shogakko in Japan, before moving on to California where they all attended the local Elementary school. Parental involvement was actively encouraged in that school, so over the years I became involved in running FSEA, a science club for children; helped with the school wind band; lead a “Junior Great Books” reading group; and spent a morning a week in the classrooms helping with ICT, remedial or enhanced maths groups, marking tests, going on trips, or whatever was wanted. Since returning to live in Sutton, the girls have attended four local primary schools and later four different secondary schools so I feel that I have quite a wide experience of different educational systems.

I would whole-heartedly endorse a return to more rote learning. You cannot build a stable structure without solid foundations, and whether it is times tables, spellings, grammar, vocabulary, the periodic table or cell biology, you have to grit your teeth and learn it. Besides, children enjoy learning chants and mnemonics, and the knowledge stays with them for life.