

Meet your SMAS governors

There are currently 12 governors on our Governing Body. In addition to Mrs Barnett, who as Headteacher is a governor, and Mrs Philpott, who is the Co-opted governor, there are 10 further individuals serving on our Board. Photos and short bios are below.



Caroline Davis-King – Chair of Governors

My background is in education, and I am a passionate about getting young people excited about learning! I was a Deputy Headteacher for 8 1/2 years in a large, inner city London secondary school of 1250 students. During this time, I was responsible for pastoral care, SEND, behaviour, attendance, and KS5. Prior to becoming a Deputy Headteacher, I was an Assistant Head responsible for learning and teaching, as well as, progress and data, and before that I worked in as Head of KS3, Head of Geography and as an Assistant Head of Year. I have served on two governing bodies in the past, including as a teacher governor, and have sat on a range of governing body committees, including Finance, Headteacher's Appointment Committee, disciplinary committees, and numerous interview panels.

I became a Foundation Governor at SMAS in November 2022. I live close to Farnham Common, so am keen to get involved in a local, community school. I have a daughter, myself, who is 8, and my Goddaughter attends SMAS.



Ruth Guiler – Vice Chair of Governors

I became a Foundation Governor in March 2022. I am a qualified actuary so am used to analysing data and strategic thinking, skills which serve me well as a Governor. Through my work I have worked with numerous trustee boards to improve and maintain effective governance and I am able to bring my learnings and experience to the Governing Board. My background in numbers has also led me to join the Finance, Premises and Health & Safety Committee.

I have a 7 year old son Max, currently in Year 3, and a younger son George, who started in reception in September.



Simon Pottinger – Chair of Finance, Premises, Health and Safety Committee

I am a Foundation Parochial Church Council appointed governor and have been serving the board since 2017. I have served on the Finance, Premises, Health & Safety Committee throughout this time, and became Chairperson of this subcommittee in 2022. In this role I help to link the priorities in the School Development Plan to the budget and evaluate the effect in the school of investing in these priorities. My professional background is in investment management. I currently lead the N.American and European business of an independent specialist investment firm.

I've lived in Beaconsfield for over 10 years. I used to be a keen sportsman (I was club captain at Coleshill Cricket Club about a decade ago) but, like many of us, now find myself watching my children from the sidelines.



Claudia Struzzo – Chair of Curriculum Committee

I am a Parent Governor at St Mary's and since the end of last year I have chaired the Curriculum Committee. I bring to the role leadership and executive experience gained working in the private sector, where I have been an Advisor to two Boards, and an Executive Director in several global companies.

My core expertise areas are Marketing and Business strategy, and I am sure that influences my belief that communication and collaboration are key in the success of organisations in both the private or public sectors alike.

I am passionate about supporting our school in delivering a consistently great educational and social platform for our children.



Alison Hart – Chair of Personnel Committee

I am a committed Christian and former managing director of a design and manufacturing company, with 12 years' experience of strategic planning, financial planning, and marketing. I am also a qualified commercial property lawyer with 11 years' experience as chair of a charity concerned with improving early childhood care and development in sub-Saharan Africa.

I believe that all children should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in learning and life skills, and I believe wholeheartedly in the ethos of St Mary's School with its holistic approach to education, and its focus on thinking, creating, and caring for one another.



Sylvia Sperring

I moved to Beaconsfield in 1990 with my husband and two sons. After graduating with a B.Ed at Oxford Brooks University I started my teaching career. I have taught at St.Mary and All Saints School for a number of years and although I am now retired I still work at the school as a supply teacher.

I care very much for the St Mary community and am delighted to be able to contribute to its future through my Governing duties.



Tina Massie

I have been part of the St Mary and All Saints community since my eldest child joined the school in 1991 and have worked at the school for over 30 years. My current role is School Operations Manager and I have responsibility for admissions, buildings, premises and health and safety, amongst many other things.

I have been a Governor for 25 years, where I take an active role in the Admissions, Health and Safety and Finance Committees. I believe passionately in our school and strive to maintain the nurturing and caring learning environment we have for all the pupils and staff.



Victoria Keogh

I'm Victoria and I am delighted to be a Governor supporting your truly wonderful school. I have 2 children now at secondary school, both of whom have been educated in Beaconsfield. As a mum I treasure a nurturing, kind, and supportive school where the individual child matters. Having had first-hand experience of the SEND process, this is a particular passion of mine.

My hope is to add value to the school leveraging my extensive 30+ year professional background in public sector compliance, performance management and marketing.



Graham Carberry

I am grateful to be able to live in an amazing town like Beaconsfield and to have a chance to join the board of governors at SMAS. Having spent a career in finance, working silly hours with leading manufacturing companies on their transactions and funding needs and travelling to all the least glamorous locations, my partners and I sold our business to a big bank a couple of years ago and I am now keen to use both my operations experience as an advisor and a business leader and, perhaps more useful, my love of the topics and details everyone else finds dull, to support the team at SMAS in every way I can. I have a passion for training and development and will do my very best to help the school keep growing and improving and delivering everything your children deserve.



Deborah Croatto

I am a Parent Governor at SMAS and have been since March 2024. I recently moved back from the US and my daughter joined reception this year. I immediately saw what a wonderful school and community we had and wanted to contribute to this.

I have worked in finance for over 20 years with my core strengths being attention to detail, building relationships and "getting things done" all of which I hope to be able to bring to this role and continue the great work of my other governors.

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