



St Francis' Catholic Primary School Governing Body: Pen Portraits

Michael Blair: Chair

We are fortunate to have as our Chair a man with a wealth of experience relevant to governance. With a background in both law enforcement and the legal profession, and a current role in teaching, Michael is ideally placed to meet the technical challenges and responsibilities of Chair. Michael also brings to the role experience of committee work, having served as Vice Chairman of Whittingham Parish Council, and Parish Council Representative on Preston City Council Standards & Ethics Committee.

Michael's connections with the parish have been many and varied. In addition to his committee work, he is a former Cub and Scout leader. His three children were all educated at our school and, until very recently, his wife worked there too.

In 1998, Michael was approached by the then parish priest and Chair and invited to become a foundation governor. And he's never looked back! He was initially mainly involved in the business and finance side of governance but, as Chair, Michael is now involved in all aspects of school life, which he has found informative and rewarding.

Michael relishes his role as governor and feels that giving something back to the school where his children thrived and flourished is a fulfilling experience that he would recommend to any parent.

Chris Moran: Vice-Chair

Chris Moran is a lifelong member of the parish community of St Francis', Goosnargh. Having attended our school and, later, Our Lady's Catholic High School, he is grounded in Catholic education in the Lancaster Diocese.

After obtaining a Science degree from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), Chris has worked as a Science teacher and Middle Leader in a Catholic High School in the Preston area for twenty years. This has given him a wealth of knowledge about successful Catholic schools, and the knowledge and experience to support and advise the Chair of Governors about the challenges that arise in the running of our school.

Chris' two children were recently educated at our primary school and have now also moved on to Our Lady's Catholic High School.

Chris has enjoyed the challenges and successes of being a member of the governing body since 2010 and he is also Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council at St Francis' Church.

Andrew Dickinson

Andrew is one of our longest-serving governors, and has strong connections to our school and parish. His son attended our school, and Andrew is normally to be found playing the guitar at Mass on a Sunday morning. Andrew lives locally, with only a quick stride through a field or two required to attend meetings!

Andrew is a practical chap who runs the family business in audio-visual technology, started by his father over sixty years ago. He was therefore drawn to the more practical side of governorship and is heavily involved in the Buildings and Finance Committee.

Andrew became a governor because he wanted to give something back to the school that helped his son become the person he is today. He also likes being part of a team of people, all with different views and

strengths, who work together to provide support to pupils, staff and the school as a whole.

Joan Marshall

Joan went to school on Winckley Square in Preston, and then later trained and worked as a pharmacist. After moving to Goosnargh in the early 2000s, Joan started coming to Mass at Hill Chapel, where she is now Sacristan and looks after the altar servers, who are mainly children from our school.

Joan was invited to become a governor in 2005 and has relished the opportunity to support the school in a variety of situations ever since. Joan is Chair of the Standards, Curriculum and Effectiveness Committee and particularly enjoys being a class governor, which allows her to follow that class on their journey through the school. Joan is a regular visitor to school, both for class visits and school events.

Suzanne Hall

Suzanne represents the Local Education Authority on the board of governors, and has done so for over ten years. Suzanne went to school in Penwortham and now lives locally in Woodplumpton. Her background is in the civil service and project management. She is the Chair of the Business and Finance Committee, where she felt her skills would be best utilised.

Suzanne has experience in supporting primary-aged children through the Inspiring the Future scheme, where she meets with children to highlight how her work and experiences link with the subjects studied by the children at school. Suzanne enjoys being a governor because of the challenge of coming together with people of diverse backgrounds and experiences to achieve the same goal – providing the best school experience possible for each child.

In her spare time, Suzanne uses her creative streak to raise money for charity through organising fundraising events and selling homemade cakes and soft toys.

Nikki Brice

Nikki is a parent governor at St Francis'. She was only elected in 2019, so is still a relative newcomer to governance, but is fortunate to have helpful and supportive fellow governors. She lives in Longridge and attends St Francis' Church, where she is a children's liturgist. Her two children attend the school.

Nikki runs her own editorial business from home, helping authors seeking publication. With an educational background in English Literature, Nikki felt she would be most able to contribute as a member of the Standards, Effectiveness and Curriculum Committee. Other responsibilities include acting as Training and Development Governor, and Well-being Governor. Nikki is a regular visitor to school, delivering Shakespeare workshops to Year 5 pupils.

Having seen her children thrive, Nikki wanted to become a governor in order to help support the very special school that we have here at St Francis', especially at this exciting time as it continues to grow and flourish.

Mary Doran

Mary Doran lives in the parish community of St Francis', Goosnargh, and is actively involved in parish life. She is the Parish Coordinator at St Francis' Church and runs the sacramental scheme where she works in close partnership with school. Having had a very busy teaching career, spanning nearly four decades, Mary has recently taken early retirement so that she has time to do what she never had time to do when working. She worked as a primary teacher in Liverpool before moving to Preston, where she worked originally as a Key Stage One coordinator, as a deputy head, and then as a headteacher in three inner-city schools in Preston. Mary is a highly experienced primary school practitioner and hopes that she can be of help in her new role as a foundation governor at St Francis'. Mary has one adult daughter who attended St Francis' Primary and St Cecilia's Catholic High in Longridge.

Apart from being a governor, Mary has also taken on some other new challenges which include being a Samaritan volunteer, assisting in the Share-It Food Bank Project in Preston, and being a volunteer/steward at St Wilfrid's Catholic Church in Preston.

Mary was delighted to be asked to be a foundation governor. She has developed strong links with school in her role as catechist and looks forward to supporting the St Francis' governing body now and in the future.

Robert Coupe

Robert has been a foundation governor for over ten years, having attended St Francis' Catholic Primary School himself, with his four children following suit. He is at the heart of the local community, operating a family business in the food wholesale sector.

Robert serves on various committees, including the Business and Finance Committee. Robert enjoys being part of a group of diverse and dedicated people providing support to our wonderful school.

Alison Holden

Alison is another one of our long-serving governors, whose children attended our school before moving up to St Cecilia's. With a professional background in higher education, particularly in connection with special educational needs provision, Alison brings many strengths to the board and serves on both the Business and Finance Committee and the Standards, Effectiveness and Curriculum Committee, as well as several governor panels. She is also the SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities) Governor, which is a central role on the governing body.