



## National Leader of Governance – personal profile

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark A'Bear</b>
<b>Current governance roles:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair – Whiteknights Primary</li> <li>• Chair – Holly Spring Junior</li> <li>• NLG support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lambs Lane Primary</li> <li>○ Beechwood Primary School</li> </ul> </li> <li>• External Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ascot Heath CE Junior School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Experience of types of schools:</b> e.g. primary, secondary, junior, special, faith, academy, MAT, nursery etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Polehampton Junior</li> <li>○ Shinfield Junior (IEB)</li> <li>○ Whiteknights Primary</li> <li>○ Lambs Lane Primary</li> <li>○ Holly Spring Junior</li> <li>○ Millfield Primary, Leeds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Secondary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kendrick</li> <li>○ Granville Sports College, Derbyshire</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kendrick</li> <li>○ Whiteknights</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Other relevant experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headteacher recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Managed the headteacher process on 7 occasions in both primary and secondary</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair of an IEB</li> <li>• ICT professional for 30 years working in the education teams of major software companies e.g. Microsoft and Adobe</li> <li>• Experience of academy conversion</li> <li>• Governor training e.g. holding the school to account, delegation, GSET</li> <li>• NLG mentoring and coaching in approx. 10 schools</li> <li>• MBE for services to school governance</li> </ul>
<b>Areas of expertise:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Author of 'Effective School Governance'</li> <li>• 20 years' governance experience</li> <li>• School improvement</li> <li>• Headteacher recruitment</li> <li>• Strategic thinking</li> <li>• Organisation and planning</li> <li>• Communication</li> </ul>

## **Lester Dennis**

### **School Governor experience and achievements.**

- Elected Parent Governor of Infant School in 1998 subsequently Local Authority Governor
- Served on Finance and Buildings committees
- Chaired the Governing Body for a number of years
- Managed a teacher redundancy process
- Introduced measures to improve budget monitoring processes
- Successfully recruited and appointed Head Teacher
- Retired as Chair to serve as Parent Governor of Secondary School for two terms of 4 years
- Co-opted as Governor of the Infant School at end of second term as Parent Governor at the Secondary School
- Immediately appointed as Chair of Finance Committee
- Liaised with LA in respect of establishing ASD Resource provision at the school
- Developed budget monitoring systems to ensure the main school budget and ASD Resource budget do not impact on each other
- Elected Chairman September 2011
- Instigated regular weekly meetings with Headteacher to monitor performance and establish strategic plans and act as mentor
- School currently rated Outstanding by Ofsted
- Managed successful recruitment and appointment of exceptional Headteacher
- Encouraged the professional development of all staff particularly Headteacher and Deputy Head's two of whom progressed to Headships
- Managed successful recruitment and appointment of those Deputy Head's
- Recognised the growing influence of IT on budgets, the curriculum, administration and communication. Established committee to introduce policies and strategies to control
- Arranged regular familiarisation training of performance data for Governors to enable them to fulfil their monitoring role
- Encouraged and supported membership of " Future Thinking Partnership" set up by local schools to share best practice, training and "thinking" with a view to enhancing/innovating delivery of education
- Enthusiastically supported the professional development of Headteacher in becoming a National Leader of Education and to undertake outreach work
- Established close liaison with the Junior School Chairman and Headteacher to promote closer working and a common approach to potential conversion to Academy Status
- Encouraged and supported Infant Head to accept role of Executive Head of the two schools forming a Soft Federation and managed the necessary changes in the SLT
- Promoted and facilitated discussion re Hard Federating the schools and the establishment of a Joint Working Party

### **Business Experience.**

- Currently retired
- Long varied career in major Electricity and Gas supplier (43 years)
- Last position, 'Head of Business Sales', reporting to main Board director. Responsible for contract sales of Gas and Electricity to Industrial and Commercial businesses.
- Role involved, managing budgets, monitoring sales performance of staff, setting and monitoring targets, training and staff development, dealing with regulatory issues and contract negotiations with major customers
- After retirement undertook successful rescue of failing small Energy Consultancy business setting it on firm foundation and recruiting a General Manager to run the business long term.
- Continue to monitor the business performance and mentor the General Manager

## Stephanie Holding



As well as being a mother to my two boys I am also very proud to be a Co-Headteacher of a large infant school in Slough which has had the grading of outstanding since 2005. I have been part of the education profession for the last sixteen years and have been a Headteacher for the past two.

I love being a teacher and working within the education profession and feel schools have an immensely important role to play in the development of children, therefore

As well as leading my own governing body I have also been a trustee for a multi academy trust. This role has given me the experience of working with a wide range of people and setting strategic goals for schools within the MAT.

My job means that I have a very good understanding of the role governor's play in supporting a school and ensuring that it is always working in the best interest of the children, staff and wider community.

I served briefly as an elected Parent Governor on the previous Governing Body.

My role as Headteacher, within a school that has long had an 'outstanding' grading with Ofsted has given me the broad skill set and excellent working knowledge of all of the things needed to run a successful school. I have developed a passionate interest in ensuring all the necessary components are in place to provide an outstanding school and ultimately, the very best experience and education for pupils of all ages.

I have the drive and commitment needed to help to support the IEB in ensuring rapid change and school improvement for the benefit of pupils, staff and the wider school community.

## **Richard Skegg**

### **Personal Statement**

Having worked with the school during a challenging period, I have a solid grasp of the issues that the school is currently facing. As I have been involved in the early recovery efforts during my 3-month term as Chair of Governor's, I am committed to following this project through and seeing the school thrive again.

I am currently a manager in a leading independent school where I have worked for the last 13 years.

In addition to professional management / H&S qualifications and my university degree, I possess a professional qualification in School Business Management (CSBM), giving me the skills, experience and credibility to adequately interrogate and audit the school's financial and organisational health.

As outgoing chair of governors, I have a productive rapport with all levels of management of the school and believe I will be able to help the IEB implement changes swiftly and effectively.

### **Management Experience**

- Stakeholder Management
- Change Management
- Finance
- Sales & Marketing
- HR & Performance Management

### **Relevant Governorship Experience**

- **Beechwood School – November 2015 to February 2018**
  - Parent Governor
  - Resource & Strategy Committee
  - Finance Sub Committee
  - Chair of Governors

## Louise Connelly



### Personal

- Wife and mother of two children aged 14 and 10, living in the south of Wokingham.
- Occasional helper at a local Scout group, including cooking for 60 cubs and helpers on Cub Camp for the past four years!

### Work experience

- Currently working as a Safeguarding Consultant, most recently carrying out safeguarding audits on behalf of Bracknell Safeguarding Children Board and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Policy & Strategy Manager at Wokingham Borough Council including the title Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Manager from 2015-2017.
- WSCB Inspection in 2015 stated the Board was “...able to demonstrate a range of purposeful activity. This includes a wide range of multi-agency audits seeking to evaluate practice and from which there is a comprehensive action plan designed to improve partners’ practice and safeguarding in Wokingham.”
- Improvement Project Officer in Adult Social Care for seven years
- Senior Project Officer at the Local Government Association leading on Special Educational Needs policy; 14-19 education and Education Action Zones.

### Governor experience

- Elected as a Local Authority Governor in 2008 at Gorse Ride Infant School and took on the role of Chair of Finance in 2010.
- Experience of federating Gorse Ride Infant and Gorse Ride Junior School to create the ‘Federation of Gorse Ride Schools’. Elected as the Local Authority Governor for the Federation in 2012 and Chair of Finance.
- Author of a paper which was used to illustrate the potential benefits/pitfalls of options available to both schools at the time. The Local Authority subsequently sent this paper to other schools considering federation.
- Elected Chair of Governors at the Federation of Gorse Ride Schools in July 2015 and I stepped down in July 2017.
- Challenges - shortly after I took over as Chair the Infant School was inspected and we received a ‘Good’ judgment. The Junior School was inspected six weeks later and received a ‘Requires Improvement’ judgment, largely due to the lack of data on the progress of PPG children. I oversaw the implementation of the recommendations in the Ofsted report and 18 months later at the monitoring visit the Ofsted Inspector stated: “Governors moved quickly to address the issues raised by the last inspection. They have significantly improved the way they check the progress of all pupils. As a result, governors are now fully aware of the progress that disadvantaged pupils make and closely monitor how well pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities get on.”
- Served on Head Teacher Performance Review for five years.
- Overseen the appointment of three Deputy Head Teachers.

### Skill set

- Strategic leadership
- Writing and reviewing strategies/policies
- Budget management
- Data analysis
- Engagement with local communities and stakeholders
- Line management
- Safeguarding
- Auditing

## **Dave Fisher**

- Governor at 4 different local schools
- 20 years governance experience
- Chair of Governors at 2 schools (Hawthorns and Holt)
- Currently a governor at 2 schools
- Lived and worked locally for 30 years
- Local government finance background
- Passionate about education

## **Dave Williams**

I am currently the Chair of Governors at Hawkedon Primary and held this position since January 2011. I have served as a Governor since 2000 including committee membership of Finance, Premises, Safeguarding, HR and Curriculum Attainment. I was Chair during our recent £3million expansion in 2014 which took us from 480 to 630 pupils and also headed our Headteacher recruitment campaign at the same time!. I am currently the Local Authority Governor but I like nothing better than to challenge our Local Authority to provide the best possible service to each and every child, member of staff and the whole school community.

I and my family live locally in Earley, both my daughters went to school locally and whilst one is still in a nearby secondary, the other is training to be a primary school teacher in the area. I also have extended family who have lived in Woodley for the past 50 years. This all means that I care deeply about our schools, your school, because it is in my community. I bring nearly 25 years of public sector service that I use to challenge schools to provide the best possible environment for children to grow, develop and reach their potential.

None of us should ever stop learning and this ethos starts in our education journey in primary school with each and every child and each and every member of school staff.