**Governors at Nook Lane**

**Structure of Governing Body**

Nook Lane has a team of up to 14 people who make up the school Governing Body.

They are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education. Raising educational standards in school is now a key priority and governors set high expectations of what the school, its staff and pupils can achieve. Governors also promote effective ways of teaching and learning when setting the school aims and policies. They do this together with the head teacher, who is responsible for the day to day management of the school.

The governing body consists of:

* 4 Governors who are Parents and are elected by parents at the school
* The Headteacher
* 1 Staff Governor elected by the teachers and support staff at the school
* 6 Co-opted Governors who are appointed by other members of the Governing Body for their skills, knowledge and expertise
* 2 Associate Governors assist the Governing Body. They are appointed by other members of the Governing Body because of the specific expertise and experience they can contribute to the effective governance and success of the school

**School Governors**

Find out more about our Governors in the [**Meet our Governors**](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/governors.php#meetourgovernors) section.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Date of Appointment & Term of Office** | **Appointed by** | **Relevant Business & Pecuniary interests** |
| Diane Shaw | Chair of Governing Board; Co-opted Governor | January 2019 for 4 years | Governing Board | Nil |
| Steven Arbon-Davis | Headteacher | January 2010 On going | Governing Board | Nil |
| Jim Bell | Co-opted Governor | January 2021 for 4 years | Governing Board | Nil |
| Caron Carter | Vice Chair of Governing Board,  Co-opted Governor | January 2021 for 4 years | Governing Board | Nil |
| Ian Gilbert | Parent Governor | November 2019 for 4 years | Parent Election | Nil |
| Christine McCann | Parent Governor | November 2019 for 4 years | Parent Election | Nil |
| Liz Harris | Co-opted Governor | January 2019 for 4 years | Governing Board | Stannington Infant School - Deputy Headteacher |
| Andy Kerr | Co-opted Governor | January 2019 for 4 years | Governing Board | Nil |
| John Thornton | Staff governor | March 2020 for 4 years | Staff Election | Nil |
| Kelly Hood | Parent Governor | February 2022 for 4 years | Parent Election | Nil |
| Vacancy | Parent Governor | - | - | - |
| Vacancy | Co-opted Governor | - | - | - |

**Governors who have stood down in the last 12 months**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Date of Appointment & Term of Office** | **Appointed by** | **Relevant Business & Pecuniary interests** |
| Peter Naldrett | Co-opted Governor | March 2019  for 4 years | Governing Board | Nil |
| John Chadbourne | Associate Governor; Deputy Headteacher | July 2017  On-going | Governing Board | Nil |

**School Associate Governors**

Associate governors have full voting rights on the committee meetings that they attend.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Date of Appointment & Term of Office** | **Appointed by** | **Relevant Business & Pecuniary interests** |
| Louise Bullen | Associate Governor; Assistant Headteacher Upper Key Stage 2 Leader & Teacher; Assessment Lead | July 2017 On-going | Governing Board | Nil |
| Diane Wilkinson | Associate Governor; Assistant Headteacher; Inclusion Lead | April 2015 On-going | Governing Board | Nil |

**What do Governors do?**

The four core functions of the Governing Board are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
2. Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of school stakeholders are heard

Governing bodies are responsible to parents, funders and the community. The governing body's main role is to help raise standards of achievement. It:

* is accountable for the performance of the school to parents and the wider community.
* plans the school's future direction.
* selects the head teacher.
* makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing.
* approves the school curriculum and how it is taught.
* decides how the school can encourage pupil's spiritual, moral and social development.
* makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special needs.

Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It is important they get things right. How they do their job affects the interests of pupils, staff morale and how the school is seen by parents and others in the community.

Governor’s support and challenge the headteacher by gathering views, asking questions and deciding what's best for the school. They are not there to rubber stamp decisions. They have to be prepared to give and take and be loyal to decisions taken by the governing body as a whole.

A governing body is not a supporter’s club. Governors are responsible for how the school is performing. Following up inspection reports is an important job. Governors should try to be ahead of the game - identifying problems and tackling them in advance.

**Governing Body Committee Structure**

The work of the governing body is managed through a series of committees. One meeting is held each term for each committee, along with a full governors meeting. Occasionally additional meetings are arranged where there is something specific to cover or discuss.

Each governor is a member of at least 1 committee and all governors attend the full governors meeting.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Committee Name** | **Chair** | **Responsibility** |
| Strategic | Diane Shaw | To manage the business of the Governing Body and ensure the committee work is co-ordinated |
| Curriculum | To be appointed | To identify key issues and monitor progress related to:   * Curriculum * Attainment * Parents * Community |
| Finance & Premises | To be appointed | To identify key issues and monitor progress related to:   * Finance * Premises * Health & Safety |
| Personnel | Diane Shaw | To identify key issues and monitor progress related to:   * Staffing * Performance Management * Pay |
| Inclusion | Caron Carter | To identify key issues and monitor progress related to:   * Inclusion * Safeguarding |

**Meeting Attendance for Academic Year 2021/22**

Governing Board meetings have been held both virtually and face-to-face across the academic year 2021/22.

Governors are members of at least 1 committee, with some attending more than 1, so few governors will have attended all committee meetings.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Governor** | **Full Governor Meetings** | **Committee Meetings** |
| Diane Shaw | 3 | 8 |
| Steven Arbon-Davis | 3 | 8 |
| Jim Bell | 2 | 5 |
| Caron Carter | 3 | 3 |
| Ian Gilbert | 3 | 5 |
| Liz Harris | 1 | 2 |
| Andy Kerr | 2 | 2 |
| Christine McCann | 1 | 2 |
| Peter Naldrett \* | 0 | 1 |
| John Thornton | 2 | 4 |
| Kelly Hood \*\* | 2 | 2 |
| Diane Wilkinson | 3 | 2 |
| Louise Bullen | 3 | 0 |
| John Chadbourne | 2 | 2 |

\* Governor left mid-year.

\*\* Governor joined mid-year.

**Link Governors**

Many governors have a link role looking at specific areas of the school or curriculum and report to the full governing board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Link Area** | **Governor** |
| Breakfast & After School Club | Diane Shaw |
| Computing | Ian Gilbert |
| Data | Andy Kerr |
| Literacy | To be appointed |
| Maths | Diane Shaw |
| Safeguarding | Caron Carter |
| Special Education Needs and Disabilities | Caron Carter |
| Sport | To be appointed |
| Attendance Champion | Andy Kerr |
| Curriculum | To be appointed |
| Pupil Premium | To be appointed |

There are other roles that governors hold within the structure of the governing board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Governor Role** | **Governor** |
| Governor Training | To be appointed |
| Head Teacher Performance Management | Diane Shaw Caron Carter |
| Pay Committee | Diane Shaw Caron Carter |

**What governors have been doing in school recently ...**

* On-going review of finances.
* Setting the school's budget for the new financial year 2022-2023.
* Agreeing and finalising the school's bid for capital funding to the Condition Improvement Fund.
* Reviewing the annual school Safeguarding audit and approving the Safeguarding Action Plan.
* Reviewing children's progress across school.
* Discussing and agreeing the school leadership structure for the new academic year 2022-23.
* Interviewing and appointing a temporary Assistant Headteacher.
* Interviewing and appointing a class teacher.

**Meet our Governors**

**[](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/images/img12.jpg)**

**Diane Shaw**

I was elected parent governor at Nook Lane in 2008 and I am now a co-opted governor. I have been chair since 2014. I live in Stannington with my husband and 2 children.

My children both attended Nook Lane and are now in higher education and beyond.

I have worked in professional and managerial roles in IT in both the public and private sector for over 20 years. I am currently a Business Analysis Manager at a Sheffield-based telecommunications company.

**[](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/images/img11.jpg)**

**Caron Carter**

I am a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at the Sheffield Institute of Education, Sheffield Hallam University. I teach both undergraduate and postgraduate students and undertake research in the field of Education. I have been at Hallam since 2007.

Before this, I taught children in the primary age range for eleven years and served as Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Acting Headteacher.

I was elected parent Governor at Nook Lane in 2017 and recently became vice chair. I am passionate about making a difference for children. My son attends Nook Lane and is currently in Y5.

**[](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/images/img9.jpg)**

**Steven Arbon-Davis**

I qualified as a teacher in 2001 and I started my teaching career at Arbourthorne Junior School and then in Arbourthorne Primary following the amalgamation with Arbourthorne Infant and Nursery School. I thoroughly enjoyed my job at Arbourthorne in my various roles as a Key Stage 2 class teacher, English leader, Upper Key Stage 2 leader, SENCO and then Deputy Headteacher.

I was appointed as Headteacher at Nook Lane Junior School in the summer of 2009 and I started in post in January 2010. I love working at Nook Lane. My goal is that every child at Nook Lane is happy and fulfilled and develops a love for learning.

I believe that being a Headteacher is chiefly about serving the local and wider community. During the selection process for my job, I said that I wanted to, "put down some roots and commit to the school community." Nine and a half years in, I feel that I have been true to my word and I look forward to leading the school in the coming years.

**[](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/images/img15.jpg)**

**Jim Bell**

I'm a Civil & Structural Engineer, working as a designer in the built environment ... working on Cities and Buildings, passionate about how good design can change lives and the environment.

I have over 20 years' experience of major projects, redevelopment and regeneration. My work has involved icons like Wembley Stadium and working in countries from France and Russia to the Middle East.

Much of my focus right now is on the cities of the Northern Powerhouse and the UK, and my interest and specialism in Arena design can take me anywhere in the world. In Sheffield I was responsible for the engineering design of The Diamond building at the University of Sheffield, and am currently working on the regeneration of the Heart of the City II project.

I am also involved in community and professional outreach through Board advisory and governor roles.

**[](https://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk/images/img16.jpg)**

**Liz Harris**

My name is Liz Harris and I am Deputy Headteacher at Stannington Infant School which feeds into Nook Lane.

I have worked at Stannington Infant School for 9 years and have been on Nook Lane's Governing Body for the same length of time. Before that I worked at a Primary School in Derbyshire.

Being part of both Stannington and Nook Lane's Governing Body helps to strengthen the links between both schools and make the transition from one school to another as seamless as possible.



**Ian Gilbert**

I live in Stannington with my wife and 2 children, one of which has progressed through the school and one of which is still at the school.

I am an Associate Manager at a national law firm where I have a diverse role involving me regularly attending court to represent seriously injured clients, working with solicitors to develop case plans and budgets so as to best support our clients, as well as delivering training sessions nationally and developing my own teams.

I jumped at the chance to become a parent governor when the opportunity arose so as to try and help maintain the high standards set by the school and to support what I consider to be a really important part of the community.