

Meet our Priory Rise Governing Board – October 2022



Name	Governor Details	Personal and Professional Details	Interests and additional information
Miss Rebecca Brown	Staff Governor Development	From a young age, I have always wanted to be a teacher and my nan was my biggest inspiration. Originally from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, I moved to Bedfordshire to study primary education and graduated in 2019, which is when I met my now fiancée and moved to Milton Keynes.	As well as teaching, I have a passion for helping animals in need. In the past we have fostered rabbits, who we helped to find their forever home, and we are now fostering cats and kittens for the RSPCA. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, going to the theatre, eating out and spending time in London. I enjoy baking and reading too!
Mrs Kristy Coogan	Co-opted Governor Vice Chair of Governors Mental Health and Wellbeing Governor Maths Link Governor	<p>I grew up in Northamptonshire, and moved to Hertfordshire in my mid-twenties. In 2012, I moved to Milton Keynes with my Husband, and 6 weeks later our first child was born, followed by our second child in 2017.</p> <p>I always knew that I wanted to work with numbers, I loved maths. I was more vocationally minded than academic.</p> <p>Working for a pharmaceutical logistics company, my career quickly progressed to a management trainee position.</p> <p>I decided to start again within a new industry, and found my way into the Financial Services sector. From an Insurance Company covering a lot of financial subject areas supporting independent financial advisors, I moved to a pension and flexible benefits provider to learn more about the area of pensions specifically, but this also integrated well with company benefit</p>	<p>I am very focused on supporting my children, in a very different world of technology that was never in existence or a concern when I was growing up.</p> <p>I have walked (I am not a runner) a number of marathons and enjoy new challenges.</p>

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		<p>options. Another move gave me the opportunity to manage my own team; completing professional examinations throughout this journey.</p> <p>My next opportunity was to become the client requiring the services that I had previously been providing. As a Pensions Manager I was able to utilise my skillset to support the employer and members internally, whilst also increasing my knowledge further to fully understand every aspect of managing a pension scheme and a flex benefits package.</p> <p>My current Pensions Manager role has given me the insight of a robust Trustee Board, a structured Employer and good working relationships within every aspect of pension scheme management focusing on governance, legislation and supporting the member to the highest level.</p>	
Mrs Cath Dobson	<p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Deputy Head</p> <p>Development</p>	<p>I am married with two young daughters who attend a primary school on the other side of Milton Keynes. I have worked at Priory Rise since September 2013 and have had a variety of roles during my time here. Working with children, watching them grow academically and socially, is incredibly rewarding and brings me to school with a spring in my step each day.</p> <p>I began my teaching twenty three years ago in Northamptonshire and have worked in a variety of different types and sizes of school. Over the course of my career, I have taught classes from Year 1 to Year 6 and have managed and led teams across both key stages.</p> <p>Since working at Priory Rise I have had the privilege of being Assistant Headteacher and, more recently, Deputy Head teacher. I am enormously proud to say I work at Priory Rise.</p>	<p>Originally from the North West, I have lived in Milton Keynes since I was 12 years old.</p> <p>I enjoy reading (both children's and adults books), going to the cinema (mainly PG films!) and spending quality time with my gorgeous girls.</p>

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Mrs Jo de Fraine	<p>Parent Governor</p> <p>Early Years Link Governor</p>	<p>My two children attend Priory Rise School and I'm delighted and honoured to have recently been elected as a Parent Governor.</p> <p>My husband has also been a member of the 'Friends of Priory Rise' for more than five years, so as a family we feel very committed to the school.</p> <p>For the last five years I have worked in local schools and prior to this, have worked in the oil, finance and rail industries.</p>	<p>In my spare time, I love to socialise with family and friends and bust a few moves and tunes with my daughters!!</p>
Mrs Maria Minett	<p>Chair of Governors</p> <p>Chair of Resources & Facilities Committee, Parent Governor, SEN, Pupil Premium and Safeguarding Governor</p> <p>Facilities Management (H & S)</p>	<p>I am a mum to two children, both of whom are at Priory Rise.</p> <p>I became a parent governor in March 2019 and hope to support the school, staff and children in developing the school for the future.</p> <p>I am a Chartered Accountant and have worked in practice, industry and currently work for a small charity based in Bedford.</p>	<p>I've been living in Milton Keynes for the last 12 years. I enjoy singing and walking.</p>
Mrs Zara Peskett	<p>English link governor</p> <p>Safer Recruitment</p>	<p>I am currently Assistant Headteacher at Shenley Brook End School, I have responsibility for staff development, teaching and learning and ensuring the most creative and positive learning experience for our young people. I am from Birmingham and moved to Northampton for my first teaching post in 2009. I have a passion for psychology and politics and a belief that "kindness and words are our most inexhaustible source of magic" (Albus Dumbledore).</p>	<p>I enjoy spending time with my family, I love the theatre, reading, running a bit, and walking...especially in the countryside or on the way to a good pub.</p>

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Ms Ruth Seagar	Headteacher	<p>Originally from Blackburn in Lancashire, I lived and taught in Nottingham when I finished university, but have spent the rest of my life living in Stony Stratford.</p> <p>I am very happily married with two grown up daughters.</p> <p>I have taught in a number of schools across a range of year groups and held a wide variety of responsibilities.</p> <p>It has been the greatest privilege to work at Priory Rise since the school opened in 2008 and to be part of the growth, development and success of the school that Priory Rise School has become. I am incredibly passionate about this school and could not be more proud of our wonderful children, our amazing staff team, our school community and the huge success of the whole school.</p>	<p>I love spending special time with my family and friends, walking, taking holidays, going to the theatre, eating out, watching films and I have a passion for reading.</p> <p>If I can combine any of the above – even better!</p>
Mrs Julia Strong	Associate Governor School Business Manager	<p>I am married with two grown up children. I have always been passionate about providing excellent opportunities for young people that enable them to grow, develop, enjoy life and be the best they can be.</p> <p>Originally a banker for 20 years gaining in-depth experience in business analysis and financial services. For the last 15 years I worked for Badminton England in the capacity of Development & Competition Director, which involved the design and implementation of many sport programmes and projects for all ages, but most importantly young people. Collectively the knowledge and skills acquired across both these contrasting sectors has provided an excellent foundation to undertake my role as the business manager at Priory Rise.</p>	<p>I have always lived locally, born in Bedfordshire and now embrace village life in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>Badminton has always been my first passion, but I am also a keen “not very good” golfer. I enjoy cooking and love films!</p>
Mr Stephen Whitney	Co-opted Governor, Chair of the Curriculum Committee	<p>I am married with two primary aged children and live in Northampton. After starting my teaching career in Coventry, following a degree and teacher training at the University of Warwick, I moved to live and work in Northamptonshire (to save on travelling to watch football by a team who now no longer exist). I am now in my fifth year as an Assistant Principal at The Hazeley Academy and currently have main responsibilities for Transition and Curriculum.</p>	<p>I enjoy spending time with my family, especially going to National Trust properties when able to. I listen to what I describe as an eclectic range of music (my wife says rubbish) and like</p>

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