

MEET THE GOVERNORS

JOAN STEIN

I am chair of governors at St Hilda's and enjoy the challenge whilst recognising the many changes to the world of education especially post Covid. I worked at Liverpool Diocesan Education Department as one of their advisers working with all matters relating to school governance and governors, and admissions to church schools. The Diocese covered Sefton, Knowsley, Wigan, Halton, West Lancs as well as Liverpool so my job could mean some travelling. It was interesting learning how each Local Authority worked and what the relationships with their schools was like, some better than others.

The role of school governors has really developed in recent years as governors are often linked to school departments, this helps governors to see how modern education is delivered in the classroom. St Hilda's governors are a welcoming, knowledgeable group who bring their different life experiences to enhance the meetings. If you feel you would like to join us, please ask our clerk to governors Ms H. Lindley for information about the election process.



QUENTIN KEOHANE



I was invited to become a Governor at St Hilda's while I was designing the new school. As an Architect, I designed both St Hilda's and the Bellerive Sixth Form for Liverpool City Council around ten years ago. I'm also a father to three daughters, all of whom have either attended or are currently attending the school.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Governor. I'm deeply passionate about education and social mobility, and I believe it's a core principle of our school to provide every pupil with the opportunity to reach their full potential. I'm also incredibly proud of the pastoral care we offer, rooted in our Christian values.

The school has faced significant challenges in recent years, including the transition to co-education and the impact of COVID-19 on both pupils and staff. The leadership team has worked tirelessly to navigate these difficulties while maintaining our high standards of educational excellence.

Being a Governor at St Hilda's is both challenging and rewarding. For me, the most fulfilling moments are seeing our pupils achieve - or even exceed - their potential. I also particularly enjoy the annual Christmas Carol performance. Of course, there are more demanding aspects of the role, such as disciplinary matters and helping the school manage a tight budget. However, these responsibilities are crucial, and by getting the fundamentals right, we create the conditions for our pupils to accomplish truly amazing things.

PHIL TAYLOR

I first joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governor when my children attended St Hilda's. After they moved on to university, I was pleased to continue serving as a Foundation Governor. I bring with me professional experience running a business in the Information Technology sector, as well as having chaired a national music charity and a health charity over the years. Outside work, I'm an active amateur musician.

Being a school governor is both engaging and occasionally challenging, but it's also deeply rewarding. Watching our students develop into confident young adults is a genuine privilege. As governors, we work together to support and challenge the school's leadership team, ensuring strong governance, sound compliance, and a safe, inspiring environment for both students and staff.



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JULIAN DALEY



Rather to my surprise, I was elected as a parent governor for a four-year term of office in September 2006, when my daughter Rosemary had just started Year 10. "Four years, that'll see her through," I said, but towards the end of the four years Joan Stein came up to me and asked "Would you like to carry on as a Foundation Governor?" By this point Rosemary had got into Cambridge University, with the aid of some dedicated teachers who had gone the extra mile for her, so I thought "I really ought to try to give something back" and agreed to continue. Fifteen years later I'm still here, still trying to make myself useful.

When I started, I was a little overawed to find that I was about the only governor who wasn't either actively working in, or recently retired from, a career in education; in contrast, I spent 42 years working in railways, initially with British Rail and then Merseytravel. Fortunately, this meant that my fellow governors could, and did, give me plenty of help and support when needed. Now we have a wider range of backgrounds and experience which we can bring into the school community, although "railways" is still the outlier. Being a governor has its difficult times - we have to be prepared to make ourselves unpopular - but there are plenty of good things to enjoy as well. It's a privilege to be part of the St Hilda's school community and to contribute what I can for the benefit of our students and staff.

Perhaps my favourite memory is of sending in some photographs which my daughter had taken on a family holiday in Iceland, and being told by Mr. Norton a few weeks later "Thank Rosemary for these, they're brilliant, I've already used them in the A-level geology class."

— STEVE PEACOCK

I have been a Governor at St Hilda's for over 10 years. The St Hilda's community is something very special, and I am grateful to have been part of it for so long. Being a Governor means I can contribute to delivering success, and doing what I can to make St Hilda's a great place to be for all our people.

My daughters both attended St Hilda's and enjoyed every minute. Whenever I visit, it always seems such a happy place to be. Being part of the Governing Body that dealt with the construction of our wonderful (relatively) new school from the old building on what is now the sports pitches, and managing the transition to co-education with the introduction of boys have been particular highlights.

More recently, seeing the academic and pastoral success of our young people, and hearing about their journey through St Hilda's and on to fabulous opportunities after their time with us is hugely rewarding. My 'day job' is as a solicitor specialising in Employment Law. Much of my work is in the education sector, so I bring to the Governing Body a wealth of experience from over 35 years in legal practice.

I am always keen to meet as many of our people as possible, and to hear about your experiences at St Hilda's and share thoughts. If you see me around school, or would like to contact me through the school, I am always happy to have a chat.



— DENIS REILLY



My name is Dr Denis Reilly and I'm a Principal Lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics at Liverpool John Moores University. I run a BSc degree course and MSc in computing and carry out research in robotics, AI and machine learning. I am proud to serve as a governor at St Hilda's. I joined the governing board because I am passionate about supporting our school, its leadership, and most importantly, its pupils.

I have a strong commitment to education and community and my focus is on ensuring the school provides a safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment for every child. I work closely with fellow governors and school leaders to monitor progress, uphold standards, and help shape the school's strategic direction. It's a privilege to contribute to a school that plays such an important role in shaping the future of our children. I look forward to continuing to support St Hilda's in achieving its goals and celebrating its successes.

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JEAN COSTELLO

I have been a Co-Opted Governor at St Hilda's for 6 Years.

Prior to this I was a Staff Governor for a number of years whilst working at St Hilda's.

I enjoy being on the Governing Body as by doing so it enables me to contribute to the organisation within the school, which in turn gives pupils the opportunity to reach their full potential.



JOSH KEILEY



My name is Josh. I have been the chaplain of St Hilda's for the last five years but have been working with the school for much longer. Shortly after becoming the Chaplain, I was asked to join the governors. It was an honour to be asked.

I accepted the invitation because it gave me a lovely opportunity to further support the staff, the pupils and the families connected to our school. The decisions we make and agree on have a lasting impact and support our school ethos.

It is an honour to serve the school in this way and the role brings me a lot of joy.

VICCI BOYD

I was a St Hilda's pupil (many moons ago) and two of my children have attended St Hilda's. I have enjoyed being a parent governor for over 10 years and most recently I have become SEND and mental health link governor at our school.

I am passionate about ensuring a quality education and experience for all of our pupils and in particular support the needs of our SEND pupils and work alongside the amazing SEND and pastoral teams. I am a lecturer at LJMU in Sport Science focussing on neurodivergence, disability and mental health and I genuinely love serving St Hilda's as a governor.



BRUCE PENNIE



After retiring from my career as an orthopaedic surgeon, I was looking for this I could usefully do with my time. I was approached by the Chair of Governors, who I knew through church, and was delighted to take up her suggestion of joining the Board of Governors at St Hilda's. With no background in education, I worried about being out of my depth. However, it has been clear to me that someone with a completely outside perspective can still make a useful contribution. As such I have been happy to take the role of Link Governor for the college - which has allowed me to get more deeply involved in one aspect of school life, which I have found very rewarding.