



"Together, We Flourish"

Kindness · Respect · Perseverance · Curiosity · Hope · Community

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Christ Church C of E Primary School Governor Pen Portraits



Jessica Colson

Acting Chair of Governors | Foundation Governor

Jessica Colson is an experienced foundation school governor, committed and passionate about serving her community through church-based governance and compassion ministries. With career experience in business administration, professional standards and risk management, she is currently acting Chair for the Governing Board of Christ Church C of E Primary School.



Lee Gaskin

Acting Vice Chair of Governors | Parent Governor

Lee Gaskin is a Parent Governor who joined the Governing Body in December 2022. He works as National Fitness Manager for Parkwood Leisure, bringing valuable experience in leadership, strategic planning, customer service, team management and commercial decision-making. Lee is passionate about sport, exercise and children's wellbeing, and also coaches junior rugby locally. As a parent and member of the Middlebeck community, with children who have attended Christ Church, Lee is strongly invested in the school and is committed to helping create the best possible learning environment for pupils and working environment for staff.



Barry Wellard

Foundation Governor

Barry Wellard has been a school governor for over 25 years and joined Christ Church School's Governing Body in 2019 before its move to Middlebeck. As a Foundation Governor, representing the school's links with the church, he upholds the school's commitment to ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to reach their full potential as part of a strong community.



Simon Murphy

Co-opted Governor

Simon Murphy is a co-opted school governor, and has been on the school's board since September 2025. He has a wealth of professional experience in community development, relationship management and events. Simon is keen to support the school to develop as a key part of the Middlebeck community.



Julie Haigh

Parent Governor

Julie Haigh is a parent governor. She has a grandson in key stage one. Her background is Special Educational Needs and she was an Inclusion Manager for 15 years. Her family live in Middlebeck and Julie is committed to Christ Church and supporting the school in any way she can. She has a particular focus on Special Needs and Inclusion and has worked closely with the SENDCO.



Thomas Pickering

Local Authority Governor

Thomas is a Local Authority school governor with a passion for supporting children, families, and inclusive education. Alongside working in the civil service, he has a background in education and leadership roles within early years settings. He is committed to helping create positive opportunities for young people and supporting the wider school community.



Reverend Paul Franklin

Foundation Governor | Vicar of Christ Church, Newark

Reverend Paul Franklin is the vicar of Christ Church, Newark. He is married to Liz, who is also ordained and has two children. Paul has been a governor at the school since 2017 and, amongst other responsibilities, supports the school in terms of its Christian distinctiveness.



Karen Wells

Foundation Governor | Staff Member

Karen Wells is a foundation governor and also a member of staff at Christ Church. She has worked at the school for almost 30 years, and in that time has seen a lot of change. Karen first started as a parent governor in 1999. Since then, she has seen her children go through the school as well as being a pupil here herself. Karen is passionate about the school community and the growth and reputation of Christ Church.



Simon Moody

Staff Governor

Simon Moody is a staff governor who worked at the school since 2022. He finds fulfilment in understanding the wider leadership of school. He also cares deeply about his colleagues, the profession and the cohort of the school and is committed to supporting the wellbeing of everyone at Christ Church.