















THE BATT C.E.

	<p>Jeremy Lasman – Chair of the Governing Body</p> <p>I have been the chair of governors for both the Batt and St Mary's Infant Schools since the start of the academic year 2022 and prior to that, as governor of the Batt for 3 years. My background is in Finance and Management Consultancy, so I've had to learn a great deal about education theory and practice during my time on the governing body. Both schools have undergone a great deal of change over the past few years, and it's been a great privilege to have been part of their continued success throughout this period, as well as feeling in some sense that I am contributing to my local community.</p> <p>I am also parish warden of the Parish of Witney, and an active member of the congregation at St Mary's on the Green. I love cinema, theatre, modern art, reading, skiing and trying to keep fit. I'm an ex-Londoner and, although I couldn't live there any more, I love all that our wonderful capital city has to offer.</p>
	<p>Eileen Gartside – Vice Chair of the Governing Body</p> <p>After a career in various commercial settings, I trained to be a teacher in mid-life and taught Business Studies to 16-19 year olds in a College of Further Education. Progressing into education management, I headed up a team responsible for initial teacher training, quality improvement, teacher mentoring and staff development. I then worked for 11 years in the Academic Office of Somerville College, University of Oxford. I have been a governor at the Batt School for several years and have supported the team through many challenges.</p> <p>As I am closely involved in the regular care of three grand-daughters, (aged 4 to 9) I feel I bring some knowledge and experience of younger children to my role as a governor. I have practical knowledge of KS1 and 2 education through their school routine, as well through my regular visits to the Batt School and very enjoyable, hand-on classroom experiences.</p> <p>Away from school life, I enjoy reading (especially anything historical), tending my small garden, being outdoors, singing in two choirs and volunteering in Oxford museums and libraries.</p>
	<p>Suzannah Cooper</p> <p>I completed a degree in Linguistics at Queen Mary University in 2015 and after a year of travelling went on to complete my PGCE in 2017. Having taught both in Witney and London over the last 8 years I am excited to bring my experiences of working in different schools to the governing body. I love working in education and know it is a great privilege to be a part of young people's education. In my spare time I enjoy going to the gym, hiking and travelling around in a campervan both locally and further afield.</p>
	<p>Harriet Ebanja-Gierlicki</p> <p>I have lived in Witney all of my life feel very lucky to live in such a lovely town with a wonderful community. I am an Assistant Head Teacher of a secondary school in Cheltenham and I decided that I would like to be involved with a school in the community where I lived so I became a governor of St Mary's Infants school in 2016 and I have since loved getting to know the school and how it has evolved. My daughter is now in year 1 and absolutely loves school, her friends there and the wonderful staff members.</p> <p>My hobbies involve visiting the excellent pubs and restaurants Witney has to offer and going off camping in our campervan.</p>
	<p>Jo Fisher</p> <p>I grew up in the village of Hailey and have lived in Witney for the past 21 years with my partner, Dan, & our two children, Barney, a former pupil of The Batt School, and Sienna, who is currently in Year 6. I work full-time & have spent my entire career in sales, spanning industries from newspapers to education. I now work for the FTSE 100 company Rightmove. These roles have provided me with a range of transferable skills, highly relevant to the role of a governor.</p> <p>Many in the school community also know me as the Co-Chair of the Batt School Association, a role I've held for 14 years & one that reflects my passion for fundraising.</p> <p>In 2013, I was honoured to become a Foundation Governor, driven by a desire to give back to the community. My goal has always been to help ensure that every child achieves the best possible outcomes during their primary school journey.</p> <p>Since taking on this role, I've been privileged to support the school's community and ethos in every way I can.</p>
	<p>Elizabeth Knowles</p> <p>I am a historical lexicographer who worked for many years for Oxford Dictionaries; my speciality is quotations, and I edited the last four editions of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. I have a long-standing interest in the history of dictionaries, and currently research and write on quotations as vocabulary items, and the history of ODQ. I have been a governor working with Church schools since 2010, and regard this involvement in such very special communities as a privilege.</p> <p>In my free time I enjoy keeping up with friends and family, walking, and looking at churches, with the last two activities frequently combined.</p>

	<p>Sophie Lawley I graduated with a law degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science and completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law. I was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 2005. I then practised as a family law Barrister in London for 9 years. I have since left the Bar and retrained as a psychotherapist (Psychodynamic and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy). I currently work for the NHS as a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. In my spare time I enjoy reading, musical theatre, history and travel.</p>
	<p>Mat Nind Since 2022, I have been a parent governor, initially focusing on English and more recently on Health & Safety across both schools. In my professional life, I am a Station Manager with Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, overseeing the largest fire station in Oxford City Centre.</p> <p>I feel a huge amount of pride and privilege supporting the school and influencing future generations. Although I don't have a background in education, I bring experience in community engagement, youth intervention, and management skills, which I hope benefits the schools and governing body.</p>
	<p>Emma Ricketts I am excited to be part of the governing body and support both schools. I am a solicitor in the banking and finance industry so, while I don't have a background in education, I hope my legal skills will be a useful addition to the governing body. My children, 7 and 4, are pupils at The Batt / St Mary's. I enjoy running and spending time outdoors with my family- Cogges Farm and Blenheim are favourites.</p>
	<p>Deborah Seccull I have worked in a wide variety of educational settings since qualifying as a secondary English teacher in 1992. These have included secondary schools, community colleges, adult and continuing education and of course primary school settings where I have been working in senior leadership in Oxfordshire since 2013. I took up the executive Headship at The Batt and St Mary's in September 2022 and have been working since then to enhance the partnership between the schools to improve the educational offer for all children.</p> <p>When not focussed on the demands of school I enjoy time with my family (including two grown up daughters) and love reading, theatre, art, running (slowly), playing saxophone (badly) and escaping often to the SW Coast.</p>
	<p>Alison Spicer Over the years I have lived in Witney I have met many children from The Batt School and always enjoyed their enthusiasm for what they were doing and their care for each other- whether when taking part in an activity at St Mary's Church or halfway up an enormous climbing frame at a Brownie PGL trip. I trained as a primary teacher but have worked for the last few years at a local secondary school. I am passionate about enabling children to have the best chances they can in life, as a Foundation Governor I hope to be able to support the staff to continue the fantastic work they do.</p>
	<p>Richard Watts I have been a Parent Governor since 2021, focussing on SEND, Safeguarding, and attitudes and behaviours, and have been active and committed to the role across both schools. I work as an Inspector for Thames Valley Police and have spent much of my career to date working in child protection and child abuse investigation. My current role is within the Community Policing Command where I am the Operational Lead for engaging volunteers with Policing, including the Special Constabulary.</p> <p>In my free time I like to spend time with my family (including my two children who both attend The Batt), and when I'm not busy taxiing children to sports clubs, youth groups or swimming/ballet/music lessons, I love to spend time outdoors either walking, running, cycling or spending time on my allotment.</p>