

The Governors

We are lucky to have an active and effective Governing Board at Summerfields. Below are short biographies of our current board:

Melanie Gartell – Head Teacher

Headteacher Summerfields is my first headship following on from 25 years' experience in primary education. I progressed from being a Class Teacher through to leadership responsibilities including three positions as a Deputy Head in two Island schools and one mainland school. I always wanted to teach and feel I have been in a very privileged position in being able to do so. Returning to the Island and Island education as a leader in the last few years has brought its own rewards. I enjoy working with the governors at Summerfields as we are an enthusiastic and committed team. My particular curriculum passions are maths, phonics, music and PE. I have one son and a stepson. I also enjoy exercising and playing sport. I am a keen Southampton FC fan and I love spending time with my family and friends. My approach to having the responsibility of headship is based on taking a whole child perspective to secure positive emotional health and well-being and working in partnership with parents to support the most effective learning experience. Children and everyone in the whole school community being the best they can be is what drives me. I love my job

Tony Murphy – Chair Of Governors; Co-opted Governor

I have had three very happy children pass through Summerfields Primary, so it will always have a very special place in my heart.

Before becoming Minister of Church on the Roundabout, I worked for 19 years as a science teacher at Sandown High School (as it was then), so given my links to Island education along with the church vision for being a community friendly church, it was a very logical step to become a governor at the school, a role I have had since September 2014.

I can always be contacted via the school.

Emily Waters – Vice Chair Of Governors; Parent Governor

I started my parent Governor role when my daughter joined reception in 2022. My husband and I always wanted her to attend the school, as we were keen for her to experience an education which really focused on her growth as an individual, and had a commitment to the wider community.

I have a career spanning over 20 years, which started in fashion design working for global fashion brands, and then moved into strategic brand marketing within the tech space, ranging from insurance to HCM platforms. In my current role as Marketing Director, for a global cyber security firm within the financial services industry I am part of the Senior Management, Executive Management Team, and Operations Board. I am keen to share my experience to help and support the school.

Beyond my career achievements, I also own a wedding and events business and I am the Co-organiser of the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival here on the Isle of Wight. Since its inception, the festival has raised an astounding £150,000 for various charitable causes.

My passion extends deeply into the realms of children's well-being, encompassing areas such as nutrition and mental health. The added benefit of Summerfields is the access to Forest school, particularly during the school holidays which my daughter loves, and has been hugely beneficial for her.

I am a staunch advocate for sustainable practices within businesses and education, inspired by my involvement in the process of achieving B-Corp certification for the company I work for. When not working, we are always out in nature as much as we possibly can, as a family including our 2 dogs.

I love being part of the Summerfields community.

Kelly Goring – Co-opted Governor

I have worked as an Early Years Practitioner for just over 22 years working in nursery and pre-school environments within senior roles. In 2012 I was very lucky to have the opportunity to apply for the tender of the pre-school on Summerfield's school site, where I have been the Manager and Director for the last 10 years. I am passionate about making a difference to the children and families in our setting and strive to provide the best care and learning for the children.

My favourite part of my job is when I get to spend time with the children. I am a qualified forest school leader and have been running forest school since 2015. I love running forest school sessions with the children, supporting their learning and helping them develop a love for the outside world. Over the last year I have been running forest school sessions for groups of children in Summerfield's school which has had such a positive impact on the children's confidence and self-esteem. Knowing I am making a difference to the children I work with is why I do this job.

This is the first Governors role I have had, so it is all new to me. The last 2 years has been particularly interesting and beneficial as I have learnt so much about Summerfield's. It has helped to build strong relationships between my pre-school and the school and I feel we are really valued as part of the school community.

I live with my husband and two daughters aged 11 and 15 years. I am very family orientated always finding time to do things with my family no matter how busy life gets. As a family we enjoy going out for walks, spending time in my garden, relaxing with my husband at the fishing lake, baking with my girls and trying out all kinds of creative art projects

Kimberley Simmonds – Staff Governor

Catriona Mason – Co-opted Governor

Having taught for 23 years at Harestock Primary School in Winchester, with responsibilities for physical education, Early Years and inducting reception children, I was forced to retire on medical grounds. I became a parent governor at my daughter's school to use my education experience in retirement and after 4 years my husband and me moved to the Isle of Wight. I wanted again to use my education experience as a governor and looked around for an appropriate place. I applied for a governor position at Summerfields, have enjoyed my time as a governor and feel I am contributing to the school community.

Carol Bray – Co-opted Governor

I am an Islander, and live in Freshwater, I have known Mrs Gartell for many years. When I retired, I became a Parish Councillor and school governor at All Saints Primary School, where Mrs Gartell was employed as Assistant Head. You may wonder why someone from Freshwater who has never lived in the Newport area is a governor at Summerfields, I was 'head hunted' by Mrs Gartell. I am happy to be part of a very proactive team of governors who have the pupils at the heart of all we do. I believe every child should get the best education, to enable them to be the best they can be, and I see this happening when I come into school. I am also a governor at Saint Saviours RC School Totland.

Sapphire Vincent

I made the decision to join the governors as a parent governor because both my children attend Summerfields and Brightsparks and I feel passionate about ensuring they and other children have the best education.

I am also currently working as an HCA inside Summerfields and have seen the amazing work all the children and teachers do at Summerfields.

I feel being a parent of children that go to Summerfields I know what other parents and myself feel may help sometimes and can put these forward.

Kate Redrup – Clerk To The Governors

In addition to being Clerk to the Governors at Summerfields Primary School, I am also Chair Of Governors at Binstead Primary School and I believe that this gives me a good overview of governance and how I can best support the Summerfields Governing Body. My primary job is as a Portfolio Delivery Manager for No7 Beauty Company and this further adds to my experience of governance and reporting.

I grew up on the Island and chose to return here after the completion of my Chemistry PhD. I am now married and have two children of primary school age. In my spare time, I am often found on the side of a football pitch or sailing.

Vacancies – co-opted and LA

Please contact the school office if a copy of FGB meeting minutes is required:
office@summerfields.iow.sch.uk