

Meet the Governors



The Governing Body are a group of volunteers who work alongside the Headteacher to support the strategic leadership of the school. We have three key functions:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- **Holding the leadership to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**



Maria P, Chair Co-opted Governor (Curriculum Link)

My name is Maria, and I am a Co-opted Governor and Chair at Bennerley Fields. I have been a teacher within Special Needs settings for over 30 years and am currently a Deputy Head, SENDCO and DSL within an independent Special School. I bring a lot of understanding of the day-to-day life of a special school and the needs of both staff and pupils. I hope that with my experience I can offer that strategic support to the school's leadership team. My many years have taught me that in order to learn a child needs to feel safe, and that all behavior is communication and am an advocate of the PACE model (Playfulness, Acceptance, curiosity and Empathy).

Outside of school I have been both a foster carer and adoptive parent of a child with Special Educational Needs and so have experience of SEND from every angle and perspective. I share my home with lots of cats and a couple of Giant African Land Snails. I love being outdoors in nature, and like nothing more than getting up at the crack of dawn to watch the sun rise.



Maria M, Vice Chair Co-opted Governor (Safeguarding, Health & Safety and EDI Link)

My name is Maria Marson and I'm a Co-opted Governor and volunteer at Bennerley Fields. I grew up and schooled in Kirk Hallam, I have lived and worked in Ilkeston for most of my life.

Being a Governor and a parent of a SEN child, I feel so passionate about every child having the best possible start in life, to achieve and aspire to whatever they can or want to be. I am thrilled to be a Governor, it is a privilege to see our children thrive, be happy in school and have every opportunity given to them. Our school is going from strength to strength and the future at Bennerley Fields for staff, pupils and the governing board is going to be very exciting.

I have a background in Sales and Marketing/Corporate Hospitality and have worked at a Local Authority for the last 20 years. I am married with two children who are at university and secondary school. In my spare time, I enjoy eating out, going to the gym, baking and socialising with friends. I also volunteer at Bennerley Fields a class helper each week.



Siobhan

Co-opted Governor (SEND and Sustainability Link)

I got involved as a governor as I wanted to widen my knowledge and understanding of what happens in school, and also be of assistance to school in any way I could. I found school difficult when I was young, so I also felt it was important to have a governor that understands how children can find school difficult, and need support so they can access their education to its fullest.

Working with the other governors and Jenni has been a pleasure. It's been wonderful watching the positive changes around the school, like the new trampoline area, and seeing the children enjoying and exploring their new environments. It was also very interesting and lovely to come in and get to observe some of the classes, and see first-hand the brilliant work the children and the staff do every day. I'm excited for future projects that will enrich the children's learning and school life that are planned, to make sure our school is the best possible for our children.

As well as being a mum, I love music and have always sung from a young age. I enjoy crafting, including jewellery making, rock painting, crochet & upcycling! I also enjoy gardening, and try to get our son involved as much as he can. I also really enjoy Dungeons and Dragons and RPG; lots of fun with a group of friends. We regularly go on family walks in nature with the dog, as being outdoors in nature it's very important to our family.



John, Parent Governor (Curriculum Link)

Being a governor and parent of an SEN child attending Bennerley Fields School, I feel I can help the children on their journey.

Seeing how far our son has progressed during his short time in school as inspired me to help and give my all. I'm married to Rebecca and we have 3 boys.

My background is originally as a research engineer at Nottingham University and for the last 20 years, changed my career to the construction trade and currently run a family building company. We enjoy cinema evenings, football with the boys and socialising with friends.



Angela, Parent Governor (Pupil Premium Link)

I am a parent to 7 children this is my 1st time having a child in special education needs school. My son has been at this school for just over a year and I can see the difference it as made to him in every day life. So I am pretty excited to get behind the scenes and bringing new ideas to life and learn

new skills. I do also get out into the local area and spend quality time with the family .



Reme

Co-opted Governor

(Careers Link)

My name is Reme, and I am a Co-opted Governor at Bennerley Fields. I grew up in Derby and have been working in Manufacturing for over 10 years. I became a school governor so that I can give back to the community and support young people to achieve their full potential. As a governor my aim is to support the school's leadership, uphold high standards and help to facilitate an inclusive environment where children can thrive.

With my background in Engineering and Manufacturing, I bring insight into STEM education, apprenticeships, and alternative career pathways.

I am married to my lovely wife Amelia, and we have two daughters, a dog, a cat and two bunnies. My hobbies include playing golf, watching formula one and spending time outdoors.



Rachel

Staff Governor

I am proud to serve as a Staff Governor at Bennerley Fields School. I work at the school as the Thrive Lead and also lead our careers education programme and personal development curriculum, Beyond Bennerley.

My role focuses on supporting pupils' wellbeing, confidence, and preparation for life beyond school. Through Thrive, careers education and Beyond Bennerley, I work to ensure that our pupils develop the independence, resilience and real-world skills they will need as they move into adulthood.

As a Staff Governor, I bring an understanding of the day-to-day life of the school and the needs of both staff and pupils. I am committed to supporting the governing body in its strategic role and helping ensure that decisions always keep the best interests of our pupils at the centre.

Outside of school, I am a busy mum to three children and share my home with lots of cats. I love travelling to far-off places and exploring the outdoors, and I often take my climbing gear with me so that I can enjoy adventures in remote and wild locations.