

Thomas Russell Junior School

Meet the School Governors:



Mrs Shelley Sharpe
Headteacher



Mr Terry Wells
Chair of Governors
Co-opted Governor



Mrs Elaine Watling
Vice Chair / Chair of Curriculum
Co-opted Governor



Mr Andrew Lloyd-Jones
Chair of Premises
Co-opted Governor



Mr Matt Harrington
Chair of Finance
Co-opted Governor



Miss Claire Branson
Deputy Headteacher
Co-opted Governor



Mrs Louise Vardy
Elected Staff Governor



Mr Paul Thompson
Parent Governor



Mr Seamus Treanor
Local Authority Governor



Mrs Mandy Bant
Parent Governor



Mrs Rosie Whiteford
Parent Governor



Mrs Jane Budge
Parent Governor



Mrs Sam Cowgill
Co-opted Governor



Mr Tim Gee
Parent Governor



Cllr Lorraine Brant
Co-opted Governor

Governor Profile

Shelley Sharpe

I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher at Thomas Russell Junior School. We have been on a relentless journey of improvement and it is gratifying to have our progress recognised, in our 'Good' Ofsted rating and more importantly within our village community. Since our last inspection, we have made further progress with our 2017 SATs results placing us well above County and National results and in the top 2% of schools for Writing, top 4% for Maths and top 8% of schools for overall percentage reaching the 'Expected' standard. This is testament to the high quality teaching and personalised support that children receive throughout their time here. My degree is in Maths and Computing; I also have a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). My passion is our children – enabling each and every one to fulfil their potential; empowering them with self-belief and self-confidence; equipping them with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to thrive in an ever-changing society.

Terry Wells

I am Chair of the Governing Body, and also of the Swimming Pool Committee and a member of all other committees including the Parent Forum. Previously Chair of the Performance Management Committee. Currently Link Governor for Mathematics as well as Technology. I take an interest in educational and other issues affecting the school and its environment including national policies and the wider educational background. I have been a Governor at Thomas Russell Junior School since 1993 (and also Thomas Russell Infants 1993-1995). My background is as a freelance computer analyst / programmer.

Elaine Watling

I am a full-time mum of three girls, Mia 12 and my twins, Chloe and Alice 8 and I have lived in Barton since 2006.

Previously I worked in Insurance Underwriting but then became a holiday representative for a year. During the ten years prior to having my children, I worked for British Airways as long-haul cabin crew which (along with excellent customer service, tact and diplomacy skills), I was trained in many other capacities; Police, Paramedic, Firefighter, Midwife, Childminder, linguist and occasionally a Therapist! It was (and still is) important to me to be able to communicate with people of all nationalities and from all walks of life.

I am currently Vice Chair of the Governing Body, Chair of the Curriculum committee and have responsibility for RE/PSHE (personal, social & health education) along with the Transition between the Infant and Junior school. I also regularly attend Parent Forum.

Overall, my primary goal is that all of our children are happy in school and they strive to reach their full potential within a safe and caring environment. They only have this one chance at their school years and I am committed to ensuring they receive the best possible education.

Andrew Lloyd-Jones

I am a currently a co-opted governor with responsibility for premises. With an extensive career in large multi-site organisations, I hope to bring my experience to support and positively influence the already successful learning environment for our children on the path to 'Outstanding' and beyond.

Living locally for the past 20 years has given me a privileged insight into our school. With a daughter in year 3 and 1 to follow, the opportunity to be part of the governing body is tremendous.

Matt Harrington

I am currently a Parent Governor and am the Chair of Finance committee, a member of the Performance Management committee and also the Leadership & Management Link Governor. I hope to use my experience to support the school in achieving outstanding results for the children in a sustainable environment that encourages and supports all aspects of education including intellectual, emotional and physical. I have one child currently at Thomas Russell Junior School and two at JTHS who both went through TRJS.

Claire Branson

I am very excited to start my Deputy Headship at Thomas Russell Junior School from September 2018. Previous to this role I have taught in two primary schools, taking on various subject leaderships including Science, Literacy and then Deputy Head. I graduated with a degree in Primary Education specialising in Science in 2006, went on to study for a postgraduate degree in Educational Research Methods while teaching full time, and more recently completed my NPQML. Personally, I have particular interests in reading, music, the creative arts, and promoting positive mental health and well-being, all of which I hope to bring to the children and wider community of Thomas Russell. Inspiring curiosity, open-mindedness, compassion and a love of learning in children is my passion, and I will support the staff, governing body and parents in the pursuit of excellence whilst continuing the journey of improvement the school has been on.

Paul Thompson

As a parent Governor my motivation for being part of this body comes from having a child in the school. I have been thrilled by the joy of learning he has developed during his first two years here. I wanted to bring my experience of working in education for the last 20 years to support Thomas Russell Junior School in its continued journey beyond outstanding. I currently work at John Taylor and have done so since 2003. My roles are teacher of Computer Science and also House Learning Manager of Needwood House. It is this second role which has afforded me the opportunity to work with Thomas Russell in a professional capacity, especially during transition for Year 6 to Year 7. I am currently on the premises committee and I am the SEND link governor. I aim to develop a better understanding of the impact each phase has and how we can best prepare our children for the next steps in their educational development.

Seamus Treanor

A Local Authority Governor, I have been a Junior School Governor since 1998. I am also currently a Trustee at the John Taylor MAT. I have been active in encouraging links between the JTHS and its Primary Pyramid schools including TRJS. I have two daughters both of whom have been through the local schools including the Junior School. I live in Barton and work as a business consultant.

Mandy Bant

I am an experienced school governor having served as a governor at Walton Primary School for the past four years and latterly on the finance committee.

I am a qualified teacher, ex bank manager and currently recruit, train and manage support staff who work with students with disabilities. I train staff in safer recruitment. I am a parent of two children, one who still attends TRJS. I believe in equality of education for all and as a school governor, putting the best interests of the children at the heart of every decision we make.

Jane Budge

As mum to Maisie, who spent four happy years at TRJS from 2012 - 2016, and Holly who is now in Year 5, and as an English teacher at John Taylor, I am absolutely committed to and passionate about children receiving an inspiring, top-quality education in an environment that both nurtures and supports whilst aiming for excellence. We are very fortunate to be served by three excellent schools in our local area and I feel very privileged to have had an involvement in all three. As a Parent Governor, I am delighted to have the opportunity to use my experience to support TRJS in continuing on its upward trajectory, ensuring every pupil enjoys a happy school life and develops the determination, self-belief and skills to fulfil their potential at TRJS and beyond.

Sam Cowgill

I am very proud to be part of the Governing body at TRJS. My career background is in Human Resource management working primarily in corporate law firms in London and Sydney. I have over 20 years' experience in HR and have also been involved in office and facilities management in my roles, and have always worked closely with the finance departments particularly in relation to remuneration and benefits. I moved back to the Midlands (where I grew up) in 2004 to have my family and I have worked as HR and Office Manager in my husband's business since then. I have been heavily involved in village life since moving to Barton and have been an active member of the PTA at both the Infant and Junior schools.

Both my sons absolutely love TRJS and have made amazing progress there. I am keen to assist the school in any way I can to continue the journey to becoming an outstanding school.

Lorraine Brant

I have lived in Barton all my life and attended all three schools. My eldest child also attended all three schools and has now graduated from University. My youngest, Katie is currently in Year 6. I am also in my second term as a Parish Councillor for Barton. As a Facilities Manager and Project Manager for Lloyds TSB for over 20 years, I was responsible for several large annual building budgets. Other responsibilities included managing contracts such as maintenance, cleaning, catering and security and ensuring SLA's were met so I feel that I have a wealth of experience which can be used to positively support the continued development of the school and help to achieve the outstanding status we deserve.

Tim Gee

My family and I are proud to call Barton under Needwood home. I am lucky to volunteer and offer back into the community. It's an honour to coach at Barton RFC helping children to enjoy developing teamwork, respect, discipline and sportsmanship.

I see an opportunity to help again as a parent governor of our wonderful junior school.

The knowledge and experience gained in 30 years of sales, marketing and management in large technology companies will help, but importantly my energy, enthusiasm and engagement will make a real difference. Being a parent governor is a responsibility I am willing to take on, helping maintain positive outcomes for the school and a place where our children are safe, supported and successful.

Lou Vardy

I am the Elected Staff Governor at Thomas Russell Junior School. I joined the teaching and SLT team here in 2014 and have enjoyed every minute of working with our wonderful children and staff. I qualified as a teacher in 2009 and worked in two schools prior to joining the team at TRJS. My degree is in Primary Education. Since qualifying as a teacher I have also completed my NPQML and Level 5 PE teacher qualifications. I am passionate about all areas of learning, but especially PE. I believe that the skills learnt in PE can be linked to the wider curriculum and help our children to become well rounded individuals.

I also live in the village and feel that becoming a governor at the school is another way of supporting my local community.

Associate Governors

At Thomas Russell Junior School we have two Associate Governors. They are elected members of the Friends Committee who sit on the Pool Committee.

Karen Jackson & Sian Hamilton

	Name	Reference	Term	Committees	Responsibilities
1	Shelley Sharpe	Headteacher	Ex-officio	All	
2	Louise Vardy	Staff	19/01/22	Curriculum	
3	Seamus Treanor	Local Authority	31/08/18	Curriculum Chair of Performance Management	Local Admissions Forum;
4	Jane Budge	Parent	12/12/18	Curriculum	English; Website; Religious Education / PHSE
5	Mandy Bant	Parent	16/06/21	Finance	Child Protection; Looked After Children; Behaviour; PREVENT
6	Matt Harrington	Co-opted	02/11/21	Chair of Finance Performance Management	Leadership & Management,
7	Tim Gee	Parent	30/11/21	Finance	Sports Premium
8	Paul Thompson	Parent	11/12/19	Premises	SEND
9	Andrew Lloyd-Jones	Co-opted	15/01/20	Chair of Premises Pool	Health & Safety; Work Life Balance; Transition
10	Lorraine Brant	Co-opted	05/02/19	Premises	More Able; Community Engagement & Communications;
11	Rosie Whiteford	Parent	02/11/21	Finance	
12	Claire Branson	Co-opted	01/09/22	Curriculum Finance Premises	
13	Sam Cowgill	Co-opted	23/02/20	Premises	Music
14	Elaine Watling	Co-opted	22/10/19	Deputy Chair Chair of Curriculum	Pupil Premium
15	Terry Wells	Co-opted	05/02/19	Chair Chair of Pool All	Maths; Technology,
I	Sian Hamilton	Associate/ Friends		Pool	Pool Committee - Finance
II	Karen Jackson	Associate/ Friends		Pool	Pool Committee – Site Manager; Centre Co-ordinator