

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	VACANT Chair of Finance Co-opted Governor	Miss Claire Branson Deputy Headteacher Co-opted Governor
		
Mrs Louise Vardy Elected Staff Governor	VACANT Parent Governor	Mr Seamus Treanor Local Authority Governor
		
Mrs Esther Ashton Parent Governor	Mrs Rosie Whiteford Parent Governor	Mrs Jane Budge Co-opted Governor
		
Mrs Sam Cowgill Co-opted Governor	Mr Tim Gee Parent Governor	Mr Pater Madill Parent 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 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating and more importantly within our village community. Our SATs results in all subjects consistently place us in the highest percentages of schools nationally – in 2019 we were again in the Top 1% of schools for writing and Top 9% overall. The children's behaviour is impeccable and we place great emphasis on building children's resilience and modelling respectful relationships, all of which combine to make our school the happy and successful place it is. 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 13 and my twins, Chloe and Alice 10 and 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 where I was trained in many capacities; Police, Paramedic, Firefighter, Midwife, Childminder, linguist and occasionally a Therapist!

I am currently Vice Chair of the Governing Body, Chair of the Curriculum committee and have responsibility for RE/PSHE (personal, social & health education) and Pupil Premium. I also regularly attend Parent Forum and along with Mrs Cowgill and Mrs Sharpe, chair the School Council meetings.

I am very committed to the work I do for Thomas Russell Junior and I enjoy spending time in school with the children. 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 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 as we move beyond 'Outstanding'.

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.

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.

Rosie Whiteford

Our family has lived in Barton for 9 years. Most of you will know me as 'Amelia's Mummy' now in Y7 at JTHS. TRJS is an excellent school, with a highly motivated team that delivers high quality learning opportunities for all of our children. For the last 22 years I have worked in the world of food innovation.

It's been hugely rewarding to be part of a friendly and focussed school staff and governors team. I've gained a huge knowledge of the education system. In our meetings there is a true focus on our children being at the heart of all our decisions to ensure we are adding real value to their education and giving them the absolute best opportunities.

Claire Branson

I started my Deputy Headship at Thomas Russell Junior School last year and am so proud to be part of the outstanding team. 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 aim to support in 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 further continuing the journey of improvement the school has been on.

Jane Budge

As mum to Maisie, who spent four happy years at TRJS from 2012 - 2016, and Holly who is now in Year 6, 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 worked as HR and Office Manager in my husband's business. 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.

My sons are now at secondary school but they both absolutely loved TRJS and made amazing progress there. I currently assist at school two mornings a week and enjoy working with the fabulous teaching staff and pupils.

Esther Ashton

I am a mum of three children - Martha is currently in Year 5 at TRJS. I also have Lois in Y7 and Jacob in Y9 at John Taylor High School, both are former TRJS pupils. I am excited to be part of the team that will help all our children reach their full potential.

Having moved back to Barton following a stint in the USA, I enjoy getting involved and supporting TRJS now we are home. During my time in the US, I worked teaching intervention to children with academic and

behavioural challenges. Previously, I worked as a teaching assistant at the Infants in Barton, where I was also as a governor on the Curriculum committee for four years.

I am committed to helping our school provide the best social and emotional care for our children, as well as aiming for excellent academic achievement.

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.

As a parent governor, I willingly to take on responsibility to be part of the team that helps maintain positive outcomes for the school and ensure the school is a place where our children are safe, supported and successful.

The knowledge and experience gained in 30 years of sales, marketing and management roles in large technology companies does help in the Governor role but importantly my energy, enthusiasm and engagement makes a real difference. Currently I am part of the Finance Committee as well as Link Governor for Sports Premium and More Able.

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.

Peter Madill

I have lived in Barton for over ten years and have three children who attend the schools in the village. I feel incredibly grateful that our village has such a well-run school with such dedicated staff. As a governor, I am very keen to help the school in their work and to continue to improve.

I see my role as to engage with the school and parents to help it be the best it can be by being available and receptive to ideas, supporting the school in what it is doing and also questioning and challenging decisions.

I have worked in HR and education and now work as a GP, splitting my time equally between clinical work and education, running the local GP-training scheme. I have been a business owner for over six years and sit on a number of clinical / educational committees.

Associate Governors

At Thomas Russell Junior School we have one Associate Governor. She is an elected member of the Friends Committee and sits on the Pool Committee.

Sian Hamilton

	Name	Reference	Term	Committees	Responsibilities	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests
1	VACANT	Co-opted				
2	Andrew Lloyd-Jones	Co-opted	15/01/20	Chair of Premises Pool	Health & Safety; Work Life Balance; Transition	
3	Jane Budge	Co-opted	18/12/22	Premises	English; Website; Child Protection; Looked After Children; Behaviour; PREVENT	
4	Claire Branson	Co-opted	01/09/22	Curriculum Finance Premises		
5	Sam Cowgill	Co-opted	23/02/20	Premises	Music	
6	Elaine Watling	Co-opted	22/10/19	Deputy Chair Chair of Curriculum	Pupil Premium Religious Education / PHSE	
7	Terry Wells	Co-opted	05/02/19	Chair Chair of Pool All	Maths; Technology,	
8	Shelley Sharpe	Headteacher	Ex-officio	All		
9	Seamus Treanor	Local Authority	31/08/18	Curriculum, Chair of Performance Management		Trustee of JT MAT
10	Esther Ashton	Parent	3/12/22	Premises		
11	Tim Gee	Parent	30/11/21	Finance	Sports Premium	Apple UK Education
12	VACANT	Parent				
13	Rosie Whiteford	Parent	02/11/21	Finance		
14	Louise Vardy	Staff	19/01/22	Curriculum		
15	Peter Madill	Parent	3/12/22	Finance		
i	Sian Hamilton	Associate/ Friends		Pool	Pool Committee – Pool Finance	