Moorside Primary School and Nursery Governing Board Members Profiles

Chris Lea: Chair of Governors
Resources
LA Governor
HT & Staff Pay Performance Panel, Finance & Benchmarking, Pupil Data, Leadership & Management, Safeguarding, SEND
Term of Office: 18 May 2022 – 17 May 2026.

My background is in Banking, having had the benefit of 36 years occupying a variety of roles and senior positions within a regional bank. I am married with three children, all of whom were educated locally and are now in full time employment. My daughter is a teacher in a primary school which has provided me with some insight in to challenges currently faced by teaching staff. I believe that my skills and experience will enable me to help and support staff in their aim to give all children the best possible start in their education.

Claire Rowett
Headteacher
BA (Music), BEd QTS, MaST (Mathematics Specialist Teacher)
Term of Office: 1st January 2019

I have been teaching in North Yorkshire since 2006 as a classroom teacher, a leading Maths teacher and a KS2 moderator for the Local Authority.

I joined the team at Moorside Juniors in 2013 as the Deputy Headteacher and became the Executive Deputy across the Infant and Junior schools in 2017 before taking up my role as the Headteacher. I am proud to be the Headteacher at Moorside.

It's a great privilege to work with our school community and the wider community, with our dedicated and caring staff team. In my role, I am fully committed to ensuring that every member of staff is supported in their own development, and that as team we work effectively together, to provide the very best opportunities for learning for all our children, through an enriching and exciting curriculum.

I am a creative person, (having completed my first degree in music performance) and aim to inspire children to be able to express themselves in their own ways, to grow in confidence and enjoy learning. It is the pleasure of teachers to unleash this in the children we meet.

Nurturing all pupils at Moorside, to understand them as individual learners, is paramount. It builds their resilience, helping them to feel secure in being challenged in their learning and feel proud of their achievements. It is my aim, as a leader, to establish and embed this ethos, to provide an excellent education for children at our school.

Matthew Kettlewell
Co-Opted Governor
Pupil Premium, Health & Safety
Term of Office: 15 July 2020 – 14 July 2024.

I have worked for North Yorkshire County Council since 2006, and in my current role as School Sites Officer in the Strategic Planning team since 2012. My role is extremely varied, working across the whole of the county of North Yorkshire. My main duties include working with Schools on property acquisitions and disposals, working alongside the NYCC Property Service as appropriate, also working on general site issues. I also work with Schools on small schemes of work, utilising individual Schools, and, the County Council's capital funding, where this is available. I also support Schools with grant applications and projects, such as Sports grants, and Lottery grants.

I first started working with Moorside as part of the School refurbishment project during 2019-20, and wish to see the School progress and continue to grow and flourish further in the newly refurbished building. As the School are on a new journey I wish to assist them establish themselves as an all-through Primary and Nursery School. I have visited the School several times during the refurbishment project, and feel that the School's ethos and general feel is extremely positive and welcoming. I would like to be a part of what will hopefully be the School continuing to grow in the future, with a growing popularity.

Dr Katherine Hammersley
Co-Opted Governor
Safeguarding, RSE
Term of Office: 3 March 2021 – 2 March 2025.

I am a retired doctor having worked primarily in Women's Health for thirty years. I also taught at Hull York Medical School for eleven years having both academic and pastoral roles.

I am married with three children and my eldest daughter is a teacher at Moorside and my grandson is a pupil in the school.

My hope is that I would be able to use my skills and experience to benefit the staff and pupils of Moorside and promote teaching and learning in a caring and supportive environment.

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Kimberley Mearns
Parent Governor
Term of Office: 21 June 2022 – 20 June 2026.
My background is in business management with over ten years as a business leader, managing finance and people. I have two children, one in Moorside and another who has just moved onto secondary education after leaving Moorside. I also volunteer at an independent boarding school on a weekly basis working with students in a pastoral role to support with their wellbeing.

My hope as a governor is to be part of a team that provides a nurturing environment which ensures the best possible educational outcome for each individual pupil.

Jennifer Pallister
Parent Governor
Term of Office: 9 January 2023 – 8 January 2027
My professional background is in procurement and commercial. I worked in various procurement and governance roles at North Yorkshire County Council for 13 years before moving to Commercial Policy at the Department for Education in 2021. I live in Ripon with my husband and son, who attends Moorside Primary School.

I hope that my skills and experience will help to support positive outcomes for the children at Moorside Primary School and Nursery, and contribute to the shared goals of the governing body, promoting the school's positive ethos and PRIDE values.

Rachel Allen
Staff Governor
Term of Office: 6 February 2024 – 5 February 2028
I have been a class teacher at Moorside Primary School and Nursery for the past thirteen years. It is a job I thoroughly enjoy and seeing the children learning and taking on new challenges is something which I will never tire of.

My son currently attends Moorside Primary School and he is thriving and happy. I want to ensure this happens for all pupils at Moorside.

My hope for being a staff governor is to support the development of the school further and to ensure children's social, emotional and academic needs are met.

Grace Foster-Lilly
Co-opted Governor
Term of Office: 17 September 2024 – 16 September 2028
My background is in teaching, mainly Early Years, and I was a reception teacher for the majority of my 9 years in teaching in a school in County Durham. Upon moving to North Yorkshire, I spent two years as a supply teacher and now live in Ripon with my wife and our three-year-old son, who attends Moorside Nursery.

We live on my wife's family farm and through my work, I've seen how outdoor education can transform engagement and support pupils' mental and physical well-being. I bring with me a strong belief in the value of holistic education, as well as practical experience in planning and delivering outdoor learning opportunities.

It is a privilege to be part of a governing body that is so well-established in the school and continue to be a pillar in the community that it serves. Despite no longer teaching, I will always have a passion for education and the role it plays in transforming children's lives, so being a governor will enable me to continue to play a small part in this.

I'm keen to use my experience to contribute to the school's ongoing improvement, whether that's supporting curriculum development, promoting staff well-being, or helping ensure that every child—regardless of background—has the opportunity to thrive. I also welcome the chance to grow professionally, learning more about governance and working collaboratively with others who are equally committed to making a positive difference.

Ultimately, I see becoming a school governor as both a responsibility and a privilege: a chance to give back to a community and help shape the future of education in a meaningful way.