



Highfields School

Governing Board

for the school year 2021-22

Revised August 2021

2021-22

Be the best you can





Introduction

This booklet gives an introduction to the governors of Highfields School and an outline of the role of governors.

What is our role?

The role of the governors' is to help the school provide the best possible education for students by:

- Setting the school's values, vision and strategic aims, agreeing plans and policies, and making creative use of resources
- Monitoring and evaluating performance, acting as a critical friend to the Headteacher to support and challenge them in managing the school
- Ensuring that the school is accountable to the children and parents/carers it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs.

How we work

The full Governing Board meet six times a year, supported by link governors who regularly come into school throughout the year to meet with senior staff and review their area of responsibility.

Governors also try to attend public events such as open evenings, presentation events, school performances, music concerts, sports events and parents' consultation evenings where possible.

Contacting us

Most queries about the management of Highfields School and the progress of any individual child should be directed in the first instance to the school itself, but we or other governors will be happy to answer any more general questions, particularly in relation to the role of the governing board.

Communication directed to us should be sent to the Clerk to Governors at school for our attention.

Angeline Ellson
Chair of Governors
Highfields School Governing Board

Paul Steeples
Vice Chair of Governors



Composition of the Governing Board

The composition of the Governing Board is split as follows. Each governor serves a term of office of four years.

Name	Governor Type	Link Governor Responsibility
Mr Andrew Marsh	Headteacher Ex-officio	-
Mr Derren Sanders	Local Authority	
Mr Rob Atkinson	Co-opted	Inclusion (SEND, behaviour, attendance) link governor
Mrs Allison Beesley	Co-opted	
Mr Edward Coxhead	Co-opted	Safeguarding, health & safety, well-being link governor
Mrs Amanda Goodall	Co-opted	
Miss Emma Hill	Co-opted	
Ms Deborah O'Donovan	Co-opted	
Mr Paul Steeples	Co-opted	Vice Chair of Governors
Miss Angeline Ellson	Co-opted	Chair of Governors Leadership and strategy link governor
Mr Dennis Holmes	Parent	Finance, resources and personnel link governor
Mrs Selina Rodgers	Parent	Standards: Curriculum (intent, implementation, impact) link governor
Dr Ewen Ross	Parent	
Miss Lizzy Dence	Staff	



Governors' skills and experience

Highfields School is fortunate in the kinds of people who have volunteered to become governors, each bringing a variety of skills and experience to support the school.

Name:

Angeline Ellson

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



**Chair
of Governors**

I joined the governing body in January 2019 as a parent governor and became vice chair of governors in September 2019 before taking on the chair of governors role in February 2020. I live in Matlock and I have two children at Highfields. I'm also a former Highfields student. My areas of specialism are marketing, communications, and project and change management.

I became a governor to make a positive impact on the education of local children. I believe all children should be supported to access the widest range of opportunities possible to prepare them for their future.

I enjoy travelling, visiting the theatre, live music and spending time with family and friends.

Start of term of office:

17 January 2019

End of term of office:

16 January 2023

Name:

Paul Steeples

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



**Vice Chair
of Governors**

I am the vice chair of governors of Highfields School governing board. I started out as a parent governor in 2012 before becoming a co-opted governor. I have previously been the co-vice chair of governors and chair of governors before taking on vice chair in February 2020. I'm passionate about engineering, manufacturing, science and inspiring the next generation in STEM subjects

I have two children who both attended Highfields. I've worked in the computer aided design world for 20 years and currently work for a computer aided engineering company. Outside of work and school I actively support the Derbyshire Scouts and walking in the glorious Peak District.

Start of term of office:

22 September 2020

End of term of office:

21 September 2024



Name:

Rob Atkinson

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



I joined the governing board in September 2019 as a co-opted governor. I attended Highfields from 1985-1992 before studying law and qualifying as a solicitor in 1999. I now run an advisory firm helping businesses with legal, HR and strategic advice.

My three sons are at Highfields in years 7, 8 and 10 and my daughter is a future-Highfielder, currently in year 5 at our local primary, so it's fair to say I have an interest in the success of the school. I have fond memories of my Highfields' days and want to ensure current students receive a similar outstanding experience.

As a passionate sportsman myself I believe physical activity is just as important as classroom work to an all-round education.

Start of term of office:

26 September 2019

End of term of office:

25 September 2023

Name:

Allison Beesley

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



I joined the governing board in June 2020 as a co-opted governor.

After a 20 year career in education I relocated to Matlock in 2010 to embark on a new chapter running my own businesses.

My early career instilled in me a passionate belief that good education can give our young people the independence and power to make their own choices. This of course can only be facilitated by outstanding teaching and robust pastoral support, both of which I believe Highfields School delivers.

My own sons are now both at university, having enjoyed a very successful experience at Highfields School. Becoming a governor is my small way of helping to ensure all others have access to that same opportunity.

Start of term of office:

25 June 2020

End of term of office:

24 June 2024



Name: **Edward Coxhead**

Governor type: Co-opted governor



I joined the governing board in June 2020 as a co-opted governor in June 2020.

After a career in sales I became a stay at home for my son who is at Highfields. Ten years ago I took up the role as a Children's Rights Advocate, making sure the views and wishes of children are heard. Alongside this I am also an Independent Person for Derbyshire which involves investigating complaints against the council, assess new foster parents and I sit on review panels for children in secure environments.

I also sit of four fostering panels to assess new fostering panels. Cricket, rugby and real ale are my other passions.

Start of term of office: 25 June 2020

End of term of office: 24 June 2024

Name: **Lizzy Dence**

Governor type: Staff governor



I joined the board of governors in March 2019 as staff governor. I have worked at Highfields since January 2017 as data manager and I also manage exams. I was a Highfields student between 2000 and 2007 before studying at the University of Birmingham graduating with a degree in French Studies.

Outside of the data office I enjoy getting involved in many different aspects of school life, including the senior choir and mentoring students in maths. I hope that in my role as a governor I can contribute to the school that has given me such great opportunities as a student and beyond.

In my spare time I love running, seeing musicals and eating cake.

Start of term of office: 14 March 2019

End of term of office: 13 March 2023



Name:

Amanda Goodall

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



I became a co-opted governor in September 2020. I wanted to become a Governor at Highfields because I want the best for our community and everyone within it. I attended Highfields myself and now my children are pupils. So have a personal connection on many levels.

I've worked in education for eight years now currently working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant at a local primary school. In that time I have gained a good knowledge of the intricacies of Teaching and Learning, the education system and the needs of children.

In my spare time I volunteer for projects run by local Charity The Friends of Hurst Farm, where I sit on the board of trustees.

Start of term of office:

24 September 2020

End of term of office:

23 September 2024

Name:

Emma Hill

Governor type:

Co-opted governor



I joined Highfields Governing Board in September 2020. I wanted to be a Governor at Highfields because I want the best for the children and young people in our community.

I was a Primary School Governor for five years and developed an interest in a variety of aspects of school life.

I have a child at Highfields and another who will come in a few years so I am invested in ensuring that it can be the best it can be.

I currently work as a School Business Manager and sit on the Derbyshire Schools forum.

Start of term of office:

24 September 2020

End of term of office:

23 September 2024



Name:

Dennis Holmes

Governor type:

Parent Governor



My daughter started at Highfields in September 2019 and I became a parent governor soon after. I have been a Chartered Accountant for 30 years and currently work part time as Site Controller for a flooring manufacturer. I wish to use my skills and experience to help the school deliver the best possible education to all of its students.

I am the Treasurer for All Saints Church South Wingfield and in my spare time I enjoy running, reading and DIY.

Start of term of office:

26 September 2019

End of term of office:

25 September 2023

Name:

Andrew Marsh

Governor type:

Headteacher



I have enjoyed twenty-five years in a wide variety of educational settings from high challenge schools in South London to the internationally acclaimed Brit School of Performing Arts. Immediately prior to joining Highfields School in September 2018 I was at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School.

I am a musician by training and still play the piano every day, if only for a few minutes on busier days! I am a keen runner and from time to time will enter fell races in the Peak District. Perhaps most importantly I am a doting dad to two wonderful children, both of whom attend schools in Chesterfield.

Start of term of office:

1 September 2018



Name:

Deborah O'Donovan

Governor type:

Co-opted Governor



I joined the governing board in November 2020 as a co-opted governor. I grew up in Derbyshire and attended schools in Erewash. Encouraged by my teachers, I was the first in my family to go to university and studied Accountancy and German. I then spent over 20 years working in recruitment and executive search in Manchester, London and Hong Kong before setting up my own firm.

I'm passionate about Diversity and Inclusion and believe in the power of education and the opportunities it brings.

I moved to Tansley with my partner and our dog in March 2020. I enjoy hiking, learning languages and travel - especially to visit our nieces in New Zealand. (END)

Start of term of office:

26 November 2020

End of term of office:

25 November 2024

Name:

Selina Rodgers

Governor type:

Parent Governor



I joined the governing board in November 2020 as a parent governor. I have two children at Highfields and I take great interest in their academic work as well as their extra-curricular activities.

I have worked for ten years in education as a general teaching assistant as well as working with SEN children. I therefore experience first-hand not only what children are capable of, but also the issues they can face and the support and interventions they require. I have also worked in the banking industry and as a civil servant in the Land Registry which provided me with a range of experiences in legal matters.

I became a governor to help ensure that Highfields provides outstanding education allowing all children to reach their full potential.

I enjoy travelling, reading, music and watching films as well as spending time with my family.

Start of term of office:

19 November 2020

End of term of office:

18 November 2024



Name:

Ewen Ross

Governor type:

Parent Governor



I joined the governing board in November 2020 as a parent governor. I am a qualified doctor with training in medical law and currently work as a Medicolegal Consultant and part-time GP.

I have a passion for health and wellbeing and in my spare time I love physical activity including cycling, running and walking in our beautiful Peak District.

I have two children at Highfields and a third hoping to join this year. I want to use my knowledge, skills and experience to support the school in providing the best education and opportunities it can to the students.

Start of term of office:

19 November 2020

End of term of office:

18 November 2024

Name:

Derren Sanders

Governor type:

Local Authority Governor



I was appointed local authority governor in November 2020.

I am an experienced executive with a varied career across a number of business areas. Since qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers I have advised, lead and helped reshape businesses to grow and achieve their potential.

After 15 years in Corporate Finance and banking, I relocated to Abu Dhabi to lead HSBC's business in the Emirate. Subsequently moving to a local UAE bank seven years ago, I undertook the role of Chief Operating Officer in their wholesale banking division, helping redefine the business strategy and processes, leading its digital, operational improvement and customer service programs, as well as leading the simultaneous integration of two other local banks.

I recently moved back to Sheffield with my wife and two children, where I am building on my various sporting passions, including my significant rugby coaching experience from Abu Dhabi and my new found love of cycling and triathlons.

Start of term of office:

26 November 2020

End of term of office:

25 November 2024

Highfields School



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