

Ponteland Primary School - Academy Committee Members Profiles

 A portrait of Ruth Morris, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a black and white patterned jacket, smiling against a plain light background.	<p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Morris (Co-opted Governor) Chair of Academy Committee, SEND Governor</p> <p>Having lived and nursed in Sheffield for 12 years, I returned home to Newcastle and came to live in Ponteland. I gave up nursing once I had my children. All three of my children have been educated in the Ponteland schools and I became heavily involved in school life; joining the PTA, helping in each of their classes etc.</p> <p>Subsequently, I became a governor in 2008. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be a governor and part of the Ponteland Primary School team.</p> <p>I look forward to continuing working with the school and staff to help achieve our children's full potential.</p>
 A portrait of Lizzie Dinning Fowler, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a black top and a necklace, smiling against a plain light background.	<p style="text-align: center;">Lizzie Dinning Fowler Vice Chair of Governors</p> <p>Having attended Ponteland schools myself and then taught at Ponteland First School for 15 years, I not only have a strong interest in the work and development of the school, but it has a special place in my heart!</p> <p>In my time as a teacher, I mainly taught in lower key stage 2, and held various roles across the school including Key Stage 2 and Maths Leader, Acting Deputy Head Teacher and Schools Direct Mentor. A career move into our family business now sees me as Operations Director for our digital advertising & publishing companies.</p> <p>As a Governor, I am proud to be able to have the role and the opportunity to use my expertise and skill set to support and guide the school, ensuring high standards are maintained and positive outcomes and experiences are sought for all pupils.</p>
 A portrait of Daphne Smith, a woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing sunglasses and a leopard print top, smiling outdoors with green foliage in the background.	<p style="text-align: center;">Daphne Smith (Co-opted Governor) Chair of Resources</p> <p>Originally from Gloucestershire, I have lived in Ponteland for more than 40 years and have been a governor at Ponteland First then Ponteland Primary School since 2011.</p> <p>Having had a long teaching career in primary schools in Bristol, Reading, Newcastle and Northumberland (where I was Head Teacher), I have considerable experience, knowledge and interest in this area of education.</p> <p>Ponteland Primary's dedicated team provides a rich educational experience for all of the children. My aim is to work as a critical friend alongside other governors to support the school's aspiration for continuous improvement.</p>



Rosalind Barlow (Governor Mentor)
LA member, Pupil Premium, Behaviour and Safer Recruitment

A resident of Ponteland, I was a teacher for the whole of my working life, which I loved. I taught in a variety of settings, mainstream and special, which gave me a widespread understanding of the needs of children.

I was also an examiner for a major examining body for many years. I served as a parent governor in my own children's first school and was a member of the Management Committee of a Pupil Referral Unit.

I feel privileged to work with the dedicated and talented teachers in Ponteland Primary School, and greatly value the work the staff and Academy Committee do, ensuring pupils achieve their potential in a nurturing environment, and preparing them for life in our rapidly changing world.



Pam Hopley - (Governor)

I am a retired Pharmacist having worked in both hospital and community practice. Originally from the West Midlands, my husband and I moved to Ponteland over 40 years ago, and for 15 years owned a Pharmacy in the village. We have 5 school-aged grandchildren, and I have been a Governor at Ponteland Primary School for over 12 years, seeing moves from two former buildings.



Rachel Briggs (Staff member)

I am in my 9th year of teaching at Ponteland Primary School. During my time at Ponteland Primary, I've been a mentor for student teachers, taught across both KS1 and KS2 and for the last 7 years, I've led Science at our school. I am proud to work alongside a team who are committed to providing a safe, engaging and purposeful environment for the children at our school.

Having studied a degree in Biology at university, I am passionate about continuously developing our Science curriculum and I strive to help shape our children into global citizens who recognise the relevance and importance of Science in their lives. I've worked towards successfully achieving our Primary Science Quality Mark. Working alongside other schools to support them in developing their own Science curriculum, we've been recognised as an Outreach school.

I find my role as governor a rewarding one and I very much enjoy working within the Pele Trust and the collaboration opportunities that this brings between the partnership schools.

Christine Corbett - (Governor)

I am a retired Head Teacher and live within the Ponteland Community. I enjoy keeping up to date with the education landscape and have a particular interest in the early years.



Claire Johnson (Head Teacher)

I am proud to be Head Teacher of Ponteland Primary School for the academic year 2024-25, following 12 years as Deputy Head Teacher.

I am passionate about our school and our vision to develop pupils who are empowered to become the change they want to see in the world. Our school values create an ethos of respect and kindness where children are encouraged to collaborate and support each other as we strive for excellence in everything we do.

An avid reader in my spare time, I believe reading is our highest academic priority and I am committed to ensuring every child in our school leaves us as a fluent reader. My office is filled with books which I have collected over many years and one of my favourite parts of school life is reading to classes or leading a storybook assembly.