



GOVERNOR PROFILE

STUART SECKER

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

I chair the Full Governing Body. As chair, I am also the governor responsible for child protection and safeguarding issues. We meet formally as a governing body six times a year and informally usually twice. In addition, I meet with Mrs Keedy once a month to discuss current topics.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A GOVERNOR?

I became a governor when my daughter joined the school as a Rabbit in 2009. I was very impressed by the vision that the other governors and Mrs Keedy had for the school, and how it could become even better. So I was keen to get involved. My children have now both left the school but I decided I wanted to remain as a governor and play a part in its ongoing success. I became chair last September.

WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART AND HOW DO YOU APPROACH IT?

Agreeing the annual budget is always both a challenging process, and a process of challenge. We spend a fair amount of time over 2 or 3 meetings exploring how we can provide the best education for our pupils within the financial constraints. Our School Development Plan guides our prioritisation of spend, and we compare our spending with that of similar schools every year. We also evaluate once a term how we are spending additional funding, such as the Pupil Premium, to ensure it is effective.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Education, and schools in particular, are always at the forefront of politics because they are so important to us as a society. We have seen many changes in the 7 years that I have been a governor: free schools, pupil premium, new statutory duties for schools and governors, changes to the Ofsted framework, much greater use of IT for teaching in Infant Schools, free school meals for infants, new assessment and learning frameworks, and so on. I doubt the pace of change will slow: as a governing body, we will have to continue to adapt as we support and challenge the School in this changing environment.

WHAT FILLS YOUR TIME WHEN YOU ARE NOT INVOLVED IN GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES?

Apart from work (I am a chartered accountant, so not very interesting) I can often be found running around the Surrey Hills as I train for ultramarathons. Last year I ran along the North Downs Way from Farnham to Canterbury – it took me 29 hours 28 minutes to cover the 100 miles, and I raised over £8,000 for the MS Society. This May I am going to run 250 miles (over 8 days this time) from Fort William up the west coast of Scotland to Cape Wrath. I'm really looking forward to enjoying the beautiful countryside in the company of fellow adventurers – and to a week without any work emails!

HOW DOES SCHOOL LIFE AT POLESDEN LACEY INFANT SCHOOL DIFFER FROM YOUR OWN PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?

I went to a fairly large primary school; at Polesden Lacey we use our small size to offer a much more personal experience for our pupils. I like to think we are clear about what makes us unique while still offering an excellent education to all. We also make much more use of qualified teaching assistants than I ever experienced, and I have seen first-hand how their support enables class teachers to run outstanding lessons. And of course, Jacky's food is in a totally different league!



GOVERNOR PROFILE

STUART SECKER

SPRING TERM 2016

CONTACT DETAILS:

Polesden Lacey Infant School
Oakdene Close
Great Bookham
Surrey KT23 4PT

Tel: (01372) 456533

Email: info@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk

www.polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk