

Governor Profiles



Chris Walker, Chair of Governors

Like many parents, when my child (Lily) started school I wanted to get involved in life at Jesse Gray and do what I could do to support the school. After an initial conversation with Sarah Law, now back in 2014, I never expected to be Chair of Governors 5 years later. I love being able to challenge the team at Jesse Gray to provide the best possible environment for the children to grow by sharing my experiences from over 20 years as an accountant and working in regulated businesses. Jesse Gray is fortunate to be supported by a wonderful group of Governors who bring many diverse skills and experiences with them. Those skills and experiences are more important than ever as Jesse Gray navigates the evolving education landscape, a challenging financial environment and increasing demands from the local community.



Rob Woods

I am born and bred in West Bridgford, having attended Musters Road Infants & South County Juniors (now West Bridgford Juniors) and The West Bridgford School ('The Comp') many, many years ago. I started my governorship at JG in September 2014 as a parent governor, having a daughter in Y1 and a son in Y4 at the time and moved to a co-opted position in 2018. In my professional life I am a director of a local specialist IT firm where much of my time is spent providing computer and tablet solutions into schools all over the UK. My IT expertise is helping to guide Jesse Gray towards a more forward-looking and modern IT provision within the school, one that is brought closer to the classroom and used all across the curriculum. I also help out at a local youth football team where I am the 'deputy' to the real coach. I'm very good at collecting cones and bibs.



Adam Bevan

I have 2 children at Jesse Gray. I am Deputy Head Teacher at Carrington Primary School in Nottingham; and have been a teacher for the last 16 years working in Northampton and several schools around Nottingham. I joined JG Governing Body in 2018 as a parent governor.



Stefan Mars

I joined JG Gobs as a parent governor in 2018. I am an employment lawyer by trade, advising businesses and individuals on all aspects of employment law and HR. I currently work for boutique employment law firm Halborns, based in the centre of Nottingham. I have two daughters, Isobel & Alice and live in South Road. I enjoy cycling, running and playing badminton and supports Brighton & Hove Albion, where I come from originally.



Louise Carey

I have been a Parent Governor at Jesse Gray since July 2018. I am the link Special Educational Needs and Disability governor, so I meet regularly with the SENCo, Mrs Thompson, to discuss the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction for SEND learners. I am also one of the governors linked to Y3, so meet regularly with the year group teachers and occasionally observe lessons. I qualified as a primary school teacher in 2003. I have taught in all year groups from EYFS to year 6, in a variety of schools in East Mids. I am passionate about helping children become happy, confident, enthusiastic, well-rounded learners. There is a real importance put on mental health and wellbeing at Jesse Gray, which I also feel is instrumental to create a safe and positive learning environment where children feel supported and valued. I am excited to see what the future holds for Jesse Gray and feel proud to be able to support the school on its journey. I have two daughters at Jesse Gray and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to support the school to meet its school development objectives and see first-hand the fantastic opportunities for the Jesse Gray children being put in place.



Rashmi Patel

I work as a freelance HR Consultant and Coach, largely in the education sector. I am currently Interim Head of Inclusion at Lancaster University. With over 28 years of extensive experience, I am a senior adviser on all employment matters and leads on a wide-range of projects and initiatives to develop and drive innovative people practices to deliver organisational strategy, capability and change. A Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, I am committed to promoting and increasing diversity and inclusion. As well as being a Co-opted Governor at Jesse Gray, I am a Director of a local Multi Academy Trust and a Trustee of a School in Leicestershire. I am married with two boys, both ex pupils of Jesse Gray School.



Kelly Harris-Whittle

I am a Co-opted Governor. I have worked at Jesse Gray for 18 years, running and managing the Play Service provision. It has seen major changes during this time and I am very fortunate to have been a part of that. My background prior to this was in Early Years. I have been part of the Governing Body for 4 years. I have 2 boys aged 19 and 10 who keep me and my husband on our toes. We love to travel and have recently found a passion for cruising. I love to read and can easily get through 50 books each year.



Liz Hopkins

I joined the Governors team in 2018. I am mum to George, who is currently a pupil at Jesse Gray, and his younger sister, Lily. I have had a varied career that has included being a Store Manager, Digital Operations Manager and Marketing Manager. Before settling in Nottingham, I lived in London, spent time in Canada and France and travelled a lot. I am enjoying working with the governing body to help deliver everyone's ambitions for the school.



Kaj Ghattoara

I joined the governing body in 2018 as a co-opted governor. In my professional life, I have extensive experience in the public sector, with expertise in buying goods and services. A large part of the work I do is ensuring we get the best from suppliers and services. I have worked with schools in Nottingham City for a number of years in various capacity including governance and school improvement. I am honoured to be supporting Jesse Gray in the role of school governor. I am married with two daughters aged 6 and 3, and I really enjoy baking with my girls in my spare time.



Vanessa Lloyd

I have worked as a teacher for many years at Jesse Gray and my two girls used to come here too! I joined the Governing Body as staff governor in 2018. I have worked across both Key stages and love getting involved in the whole school life. I am the Arts co-ordinator and am currently working on an Artsmark award for the school. I also love sport and take Year 3 and 4 for a running club and help organise our entries for the mini marathon. I am currently teaching Year 2.



Karen Davies

I am a co-opted governor, now in my 6th year. My professional background was in psychology and education. As a teacher I taught in a hospital-based multi-disciplinary team, and in early years, primary and secondary settings, before qualifying as an educational psychologist and working for Local Authorities, mainly in Nottinghamshire. Throughout my career I was committed to promoting social inclusion and to supporting schools and their communities to achieve the best possible outcomes for their children and young people. It is a privilege to be a governor at Jesse Gray and to be part of this dynamic and forward-looking school. I love travelling and like to get off the beaten track. Azerbaijan was one of the last trips and was amazing. Closer to home, I enjoy yogalates, swimming and sharing food with family and friends. I am currently trying to teach myself to do cryptic crosswords.



Fran Moore

I am very proud to be a co-opted governor at Jesse Gray. I have been Deputy Head Teacher here since 2007 and during this time, I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching across all key stages, specialising in best practice within our classrooms and supporting the Headteacher, to ensure that the children at Jesse Gray experience a wonderful learning journey, academically, socially and emotionally. I fully believe in the values and ethos of Jesse Gray, I am committed and passionate about ensuring pupils and staff are the very best they can be. In my spare time, I love to be with my wonderful family and friends, running (very slowly!) and keeping up to date with educational research.