

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Chair of the Governing Body of Shefford Lower School. My name is Jo Elliott, and I have been on the Board of Governors for 9 years. Throughout this time, I have become increasingly involved in the strategic planning and support of the school. For the past four years I have been Chair of Governors.



I have two young children, one at Shefford Lower School and one at Robert Bloomfield Academy. My background is in Education. I have been a qualified teacher for 18 years, 10 of those years were as a Head of Department and my current position is a Senior Leader in charge of behaviour. My passion has always been around the educational development of young children and adults and becoming a governor was another way I could deliver this. I believe every child should be provided with the very best learning experience and wanted to support this within the Shefford community. I have lived in Shefford for 14 years and was drawn in by the warmth and huge community spirit. I felt that I could use my expertise to make sure our young children get the best possible start in their learning journey.

I have continued to support the school over these years and have had the privilege of working with three of its Head Teachers. I look forward to working alongside Mrs Ross for her second year here at Shefford Lower.

We as governors focus on six key areas and provide challenge and support where necessary.

The six areas of effective governance are:

1. Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos, and strategy.
2. The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances)
3. Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
4. Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
5. Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
6. Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

If anyone in our community is interested in taking on a voluntary position as a governor or would like to know more details about the role of the governors, please get in contact via the school office. We will be sending out further information regarding recruitment into the Governing Body shortly as we have a forthcoming vacancy.

I look forward to continuing to work with the school to ensure our children receive the best possible offer at Shefford Lower School.

Yours Sincerely,

Jo Elliott

Chair of Governors

Shefford Lower School

Chris Hubbard                      Health and Safety Governor  
Link to Humanities Team  
Member of three committees

I have been a governor since 2022. As a governor, I have been involved in headteacher recruitment and a range of HR matters. My main role is to ensure effective health and safety processes within the school. I also have a link to the Humanities team and sit on a number of committees. In my own time, I enjoy taking part in marathons, triathlons, fundraising activities and I coach a local football and rugby team. I also enjoy listening to podcast; particularly travel and politics. I was born and raised in Central Bedfordshire and my children have gone through Shefford Lower School. I enjoy giving back to the community and supporting the school to foster a culture which supports our children to be citizens of the future.



Jan Howieson                      Co-opted governor  
English, The Arts and Key Stage 2 Link Governor  
Member of 2 committees

I have been a governor at Shefford Lower School since 2023, before this I was a governor at another local school from 2014 – 2022. I am a retired School Business Manager and believe the skills I have accrued over my years working in schools are useful within the role of governor. In my own time I enjoy visiting theatres, gardening, sewing, visiting historic sites, holidays and I am learning to play the piano.



Joe Pepper                          Co-opted governor  
Whole School Outcomes Governor  
Member of a committee

I am in my second term of office as a governor at Shefford Lower School. I have been CEO of PEXA UK and prior to that I was CEO of TM group from 2018-2023. I am interested in politics, history and I play hockey for Shefford and Sandy Hockey Club. I have lived in Shefford since 2010, I am a steward and the treasurer of Shefford Methodist Church and I have 3 children who have completed lower school at Shefford Lower between 2010 and 2023. As a governor, I wish to provide support and advice to the school recognising both its role in the local community and the education it has provided to my own children.



Michelle Hodson Reed

Co-opted governor  
Vice Chair of Governing Body  
Early Years Link Governor  
Member of 3 Committees

I am in my second term of office as a governor and was previously a parent governor. Professionally, I am a child minder with a OFSTED Outstanding rating. I live in Shefford and both my children went through Shefford Lower School. Prior to my role as governor, I was chair of the Parent Staff Association. I am an avid reader; enjoying both fact and fiction equally! I am completing a level 1 qualification in British Sign Language and find this incredibly enjoyable. I enjoy spending time in North Wales with my family and can be found on the beach no matter the weather! We moved to Shefford after the birth of my second child and both of my children went to Shefford Lower School. I became a governor as I wish to contribute to the community at the school after my term ended as chair of the PSA. My parents were both volunteers and instilled in me an ethos of serving the community. Being a governor is incredibly rewarding and I enjoy working alongside the school.



Paul Brennan Parent Governor

Parent and Community Link Governor  
IT, Marketing and Cyber Link Governor

I have been a governor at Shefford Lower for two years. Professionally, I am Head of service delivery for an IT service provider. I enjoy coaching a local youth football team, spending time with my family, sport and technology. I live in Shefford and both of my children have been through Shefford Lower School. Taking on the role of governor was suggested by a friend. I am really passionate about supporting young people receiving the best possible start to their journey in education. I enjoy being part of creating this.



Martin Perry

Parent Governor  
Life Subject area Link Governor  
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Link Governor  
Key Stage 1 Link Governor  
Member of 2 committees

I have been a governor at Shefford Lower School since January 2023. Professionally, I work in software partnerships for Technogym. My career to date has not been in the education sector. My interests include sport, fitness, music, technology and I am also a very amateur guitar player! This is my first experience as a school governor. I joined the governing body as I wanted to contribute to my local community and being a governor has given me the ability to make a difference as a volunteer. It is always rewarding to see the school and students develop and grow. I endeavour to use my experience from other industries to support the school, the staff and ultimately, the pupils. Equally, the experience gained from working alongside others on the governing



board and school staff has positively supported my own personal development and enhanced transferable skills and knowledge I can apply in my own career.

Sarah Grosvenor-Brown

Co-opted Governor  
Safeguarding Governor  
Attendance Governor  
STEM Link Governor  
Member of 1 committee

I have been a governor at Shefford Lower School for 2 years and I feel my skills and experiences within this role are developing all of the time. I enjoy watching sport of any kind, walking and spending time with friends and family. I have worked for the NHS for over 20 years as an occupational therapist. I joined to governing body to be part of ensuring that all the correct assurances are in place and that the children are getting a fully immersive learning experience rich with opportunity.

