

## HOPTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Gillian McGill – Chair  
Steering, Head’s performance,  
Resources, Appeals

I have been a governor at Hopton since 2019, first as a parent governor and now as a Foundation governor.

Whilst my daughter was at Hopton, I really valued the nurturing environment of the school and the benefits that our small size brings each child.

During the week, I work as a chartered tax advisor specialising in the not-for-profit sector and I am to bring my analytical and strategic skills to my governing role. In my spare time, I enjoy running, wild swimming, and reading. I also sit on the All Saints Church PCC and support strengthening links to the school.

Sarah Almond – Vice chair  
Steering, Head’s performance,  
Safeguarding, SEND, Appeals

I have been a co-opted member of the governing body at Hopton since September 2016.

I have worked as a teacher all of my working career, retiring in July 2016, after forty years of full time teaching. In that time I have taught Reception to Year 8 pupils in a variety of different schools teaching a wide range of subjects. I have working in both the State and independent sector, and I also taught in an International School in the Middle East for eight years.

I have specific responsibility for Safeguarding and for SEND provision at Hopton.

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Ben Cowling  
Resources, Appeals

I have been a governor since April 2023. I have two children at Hopton and very much feel vested in the success of the school.

I am a builder by trade, but as my wife runs a local primary school, I look after the children in the week. I have a passion for design, I love being creative and the excitement you get when an idea goes from concept to creation!

I also like a challenge probably one reason why I am a parent governor. I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the team.

James Upson  
Resources, Appeals

I grew up in Aldeburgh and after moving around the UK for work, settled in the local area with my family in 2019.

I am a Wildlife Ranger Manager for Forestry England and have been employed in Forestry for 19 years. My hobbies generally centre around the outdoors and countryside pursuits.

I became a parent governor in 2023 and have two children at Hopton. I became governor because I wanted to support the school to the best of my ability and help maintain the values that make it special.

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Rev Cathy Bladen  
Appeals

I am the Rector of Hopton and the United Benefice of Stanton and part of my role is to be a Foundation governor at Hopton. It's a really important role and one that I enjoy.

I have always loved working with children of all ages. I worked in the Area Education Office and Careers Office in Ipswich early on in my working life.

I worked as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant in a SEND department for ten years before I began training as a Priest. All my experience helps me understand school life and the pressures on staff and children. My highlight is helping children build self-esteem and reaching their full potential.

Peter Cox  
Appeals

I joined the Governors at the beginning of 2024. I am a retired commercial trainer/senior partner in my own training consultancy, specialising in helping people communicate and work better with each other. I mainly worked with Agricultural, Pharmaceutical companies and government departments around the world.

I enjoy growing vegetables and all aspects of rural life. I have been on the PCC of Hopton CE All Saints as treasurer, church warden, and now sing in the choir.

I hope to assist the Governing body to provide the support that both the staff and pupils need and deserve.

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GOVERNORS**

Michelle Gardner & Sarah Grimmer

Mrs Gardner and Mrs Grimmer jointly act as staff governor bringing the perspective of staff to our discussions and decisions.