Governors Pen Portraits

Liz Mellor (Headteacher)

My name is Liz Mellor and I have been Headteacher at Horsham Nursery School since 2021.
Since qualifying as a teacher in 1991 in Cheltenham, I have worked in South London, Surrey and then West Sussex. I have over 30 years' experience in the classroom, leading EYFS teams and eventually working for a large academy trust in Crawley on the Senior Leadership Team.
I have 2 children, who are now in their 20's studying at university. I live with my husband near to Horsham and I enjoy walking in our beautiful countryside around my home.
I love leading the team at Horsham Nursery as we are such a passionate, positive team of practitioners who support each other as well as keeping the children at the heart of all we do!

El Davis (Chair of Governors- Co-opted)

I have been a governor for just over 4 years. I am the SENCo at Dorking Nursery School and so use this knowledge to support being SEND governor at Horsham. I am a qualified teacher and am currently participating in a qualification to become a Headteacher. Prior to my current job I taught in specialist schools mainly in the early years classes.
I am very passionate about supporting families and making sure all children have the best early education possible.
I have 2 children aged 9 and 7, 2 cats and a dog called Pepper. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with friends, dog walking, swimming, reading and playing tennis. I am really enjoying being part of the Horsham Nursery School family.

Amy Hudspith (Vice-Chair Co-opted Governor)

I am a full time working parent and have been a parent of Horsham Nursery School since October 2016. I am passionate about making a difference to the lives of children and committed to devoting time and energy to the role. I have always been incredibly impressed with the care all of my children have received and in particular how well the nursery prepares children for primary school education. I am extremely keen to support the focus on Wellbeing and the Forest School provisions. In my professional role I am the Head of Criminal Justice for the British Transport Police and gained my legal qualifications at the College of Law in Guildford and feel skills gained in my professional role will benefit me in this post. In my spare time I enjoy attending the theatre, reading, dining out with friends and making lots of memories with my family both at home and abroad.

Tina Fosberry (Staff Governor)

I am the Lead Practitioner in the Under 3's Nursery, having previously been a Senior Nursery Nurse. Before joining nursery I worked in a variety of roles, in pre-schools, as a portage home visitor and as an HLTA in a primary school. I am married to Richard and we have 2 grown up sons, who keep me busy. I enjoy keeping fit through cycling, walking and running.

Deanne Ambrose (Co-opted Governor)

Hello, I am Deanne Ambrose, a Co-opted Governor at Horsham Nursery School since 2017. Currently I am part of the Staff and Finance Committee and have responsibility for working with the Headteacher on Health and Safety.
I recently retired having worked for the West Sussex County Council Early Help Service at the Horsham Family Hub and prior to 2020 was based at the Children and Family Centre at Harwood Road working alongside the Horsham Nursery Team.
Originally, I am from East Anglia but have lived in Horsham since 1993 and this is where I brought up my three (now adult) children. Before starting my family, I worked in banking for twenty years and have been with WSCC since 2003, initially as a lunchtime supervisor at my children's Primary School before joining the Early Help Service in 2015. Until 2024 I served as a Trustee with 1st Roffey Scout Group for 17 years including several years as Group Treasurer having been associated with scouting since the 1970s when I first joined as a Cub Scout Leader. I am very happy that the next generation has carried this on as my younger son is a Leader at another local Cub Pack.

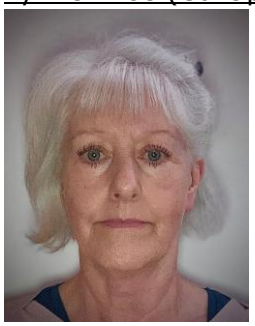
Julia Kirk (Local Authority Governor)

I am Julia, my daughter used to attend the nursery and left in July 2021 and I joined as a parent governor just as she was leaving. I am now the Local Authority Governor.
I have been a part of Horsham Nursery School as a governor for the last year and am very much enjoying this role. I am passionate about Early Years and Supporting Families. It is very important to me for children to have Early Years education and I have seen many benefits the nursery offers our Early Years children.
In my professional role I have recently joined West Sussex as a Family Support Worker working in the Early Help Team. Prior to this I was a Operations Director for a Nursery Company based in West Sussex and was in this role for 8 years.
I have studied at university and have a BA Hons in Early Childhood Education.
In my personal life I am a mum to Jordy who is 14 and Libby who is 6, I live in Horsham with my husband, children and cavapoo Biscuit. They keep me very busy! My son has additional needs and was supported from his Early Years education.
When I do get some spare time I enjoy going to my local gym and enjoy doing many exercise classes that they have to offer.

Chris Downing (Co-Opted Governor)

Hi, I'm Chris Downing a new Co Opted Governor here at Horsham nursery school. Our daughter started attending the nursery school in 2022 and we have enjoyed our experience of the nursery so far.
I graduated from university with a degree in International Business Management and worked with NHS initially in marketing and equitable access. For the last 10 years I have worked in the insurance industry. I currently work on the digital strategy and delivery of sales and service journeys for our customers and clients. I feel a number of the skills I have from my career can help with the strategic leadership of the nursery and to support the business side of the strategy. I'm involved in the Finance Committee and hope to support in other areas where I can.
I previously helped run our local Beavers colony for 8 years before moving from the area. I'm a keen outdoor enthusiast and enjoy hiking, running, especially trail running, my allotment and outdoor cooking.

Lynne Wise (Co-Opted Governor)



I have spent most of my adult life learning about how children and young people can gain a sense of worth, self esteem and fulfilment when their knowledge and understanding is enriched and developed. I am married and have three grown up children and four grandchildren who all keep me smiling and alert to the speed of change in the world. I have been a Headteacher of three schools, and a General Advisor for a 'patch' of primary schools. I am retired, although on a sessional basis, I work with a local university to support the mentoring of trainee teachers. I find this opportunity rewarding, it is a privilege to be able to share some of my relevant experience. I will do my best to support the Headteacher and staff in the development and success of Horsham Nursery. My interests include a regular yoga practice, walking (fair weather!), travelling near and far, theatre trips, dancing, visiting galleries, exhibitions and family days.