

Dawn Scargill - Parent Governor / Chair of Governors

I have two sons at Thorner Primary School and was delighted to become a parent governor and Chair of the governing body in November 2014.

My background is in commercial property law where my work often involved making challenging decisions, finding consensus and understanding/interpreting complex legal documents. I currently run my own business providing after school maths and English tuition in the Oakwood area of Leeds, which has only increased my passion for education.

I believe that it is a governor's role to support the school to perform to the best of its ability and ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to reach their full potential and enjoy their time at primary school.

Susan Graham – Foundation Governor / Chair of Resources

I have been associated with Thorner School since my daughter started here in 2006 and have been a foundation governor and Chair of the Resources Committee for seven years. My two sons are also still pupils at the school.

I am a Chartered Accountant by background with over 15 years' experience in advising businesses and organisations in both the private and the public sector. I am committed to helping to make the school the best it can be for the benefit of all our children.

Michelle Manson – Co-opted Governor

I have worked in education, training and employability for 20 years, predominately managing the successful delivery of government funded training programmes.

I am Trustee on the Board of a local children's charity, which supports children with physical disabilities and learning difficulties, where I provide a lead on business development and fund raising.

I have lived in Thorner for over 2 years and in East Leeds all my life. My 2 children both attend Thorner Primary School, however started at Colton Primary, where I was also a Parent Governor.

I am extremely passionate about education and learning and as part of my work as a governor at Thorner Primary I am also the lead governor for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Andy Nicholson – Foundation Governor / Chair of Pupil Support & Child Protection/Safeguarding

I am the vicar of Thorner Church, as well as Barwick in Elmet and Scholes. Before training for ordination I was a Secondary School Teacher of RE and previous to that an English Teacher in Spain and China.

My interests include hill walking and the Asturias region of Northern Spain. I was born in Sheffield and, through my grandfather, am a freeman of the City of York.

John Player – Local Authority Governor / Chair of Teaching & Learning

I have lived in Thorner for 9 years and two of my grandchildren have been pupils at Thorner Primary school.

For 10 years up to 2007 I was Headteacher of Grange Technology College, Bradford, which was judged "Outstanding" by Ofsted in 2007.

I was awarded an OBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours list for services to education and an Honorary Doctorate by Bradford University in 2006 for my work in education.

From 2007 to 2013 I worked as an adviser for the Department for Education and as a School Improvement Partner for Education Leeds, Education Bradford and North Yorkshire. I was the external adviser for the performance management of Headteachers in over 20 schools.

Paul Spurrier – Co-opted Governor

My association with Thorner Primary School began in 2014 when my step-son joined Ash class. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to become a Co-opted Governor in November 2015.

Professionally, I am one of HM Inspectors of Health and Safety, and have been for over 26 years working across a range of industry types. I have over 18 years of frontline management and policy development experience in HSE. This has included operational research, improving targeting, developing policy and strategic approaches to changing government policy. I hold professional qualifications in project and portfolio management and sit on recruitment and promotion interview panels for new and existing staff. I hope my experience will be of use and benefit to the governing body, in helping the school develop and be the best that it can.

My interests include skiing, horse riding, sailing and infrequent visits to the gym. My sporting passion is rugby union, having played it for many years before putting something back into the sport and becoming a coach for minis and juniors teams.

Ian Holmes – Headteacher

I started at Thorner in January 2015, and feel both proud and privileged to be the Headteacher of our school. I have not always been involved in Education and initially worked as a tax consultant in London for 10 years prior to training as a teacher.

I qualified as a teacher in 2006 and since then I've taught in almost every year group across the Primary phase, and was Deputy Headteacher at Aspin Park Primary School in Knaresborough from 2010 onwards.

I have also been involved in supporting other schools across North Yorkshire – an experience which was both invaluable to my professional development as well as being humbling in terms of witnessing the dedication of staff in some particularly challenging circumstances.

I am a firm believer in leading by example, and hope that you see me demonstrating and living values, and that together as a school community we can make it “an inspirational place to learn and play!”

Sam Capstick – Staff Governor

I began my teaching career as an NQT at Thorner School over twenty years ago and over the years I have accumulated a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience. I was Assistant Head for nine years and am currently Acting Deputy Head. I have taught in years 3, 5 and 6 and am currently teaching in year 6. The children at Thorner matter to me. I care about their learning, their welfare and their entitlement to enjoy their time in our school. I believe it is my job to make a difference to their lives.

I have been Staff Governor since September 2010 and during this time I have been involved in the recruitment of staff and been on both the Teaching and Learning Committee and Resources Committee. I have enjoyed working closely with members of the governing body when recruiting and selecting new members of staff, short listing, interviewing, observing lessons as part of the process and helping to make an informed decision. As an experienced governor and member of staff, I believe that maintaining high quality relationships with a Governing Body that continues to offer challenge and support is a vital component for the long term success of the school.