



**College Road**  
Primary School

*College Road Primary School*

*Meet the Governors*

*Updated: February 2016*

Mr Jim Warwick  
Local Authority Governor

Chair of Governors and  
Trustee of South West Plymouth  
Education Trust



I was born in Plymouth in 1938, just prior to the commencement of the second world war, and apart from about three years when I was working away from home in the 1950s, I have lived in the Stoke area of Plymouth all of my life.

I was educated at Stuart Road Primary School and Devonport High School for Boys and subsequently trained to be a building surveyor and worked on many of the housing projects constructed during the 1950s and on other projects, the most interesting being the Plymouth civic centre. In later life I studied design and other aspects of the building industry, and became a consultant to smaller building concerns and private customers. I designed the administration extension at the school and the concept for the dining hall extension and the gallery in the art room.

In 1966 my first child attended the school, and subsequently my other two children joined. My wife and I became founder members of the Friends of College Road School, very similar to the PTA of today. In 1978 I was approached by the chair of governors (although they were known as school managers in those days) Councillor Helen Fox asking if I would like to be appointed to the board by the local authority. I agreed, and the first challenge we faced was the threat of closure, as the school only had half the number of children that we have now. The governors and the friends fought a spirited battle, and succeeded in keeping the school open.

Mrs Fox retired the following year and I was elected chair and have been ever since. There have been many incredible changes in the school and education since those days and Mr. Wallace is the fifth head teacher with whom I have worked. One of the most significant changes was the formation of our trust with the six other schools, and as a trustee, I have found it most interesting and inspiring. Since last year I have been chair of trustees.

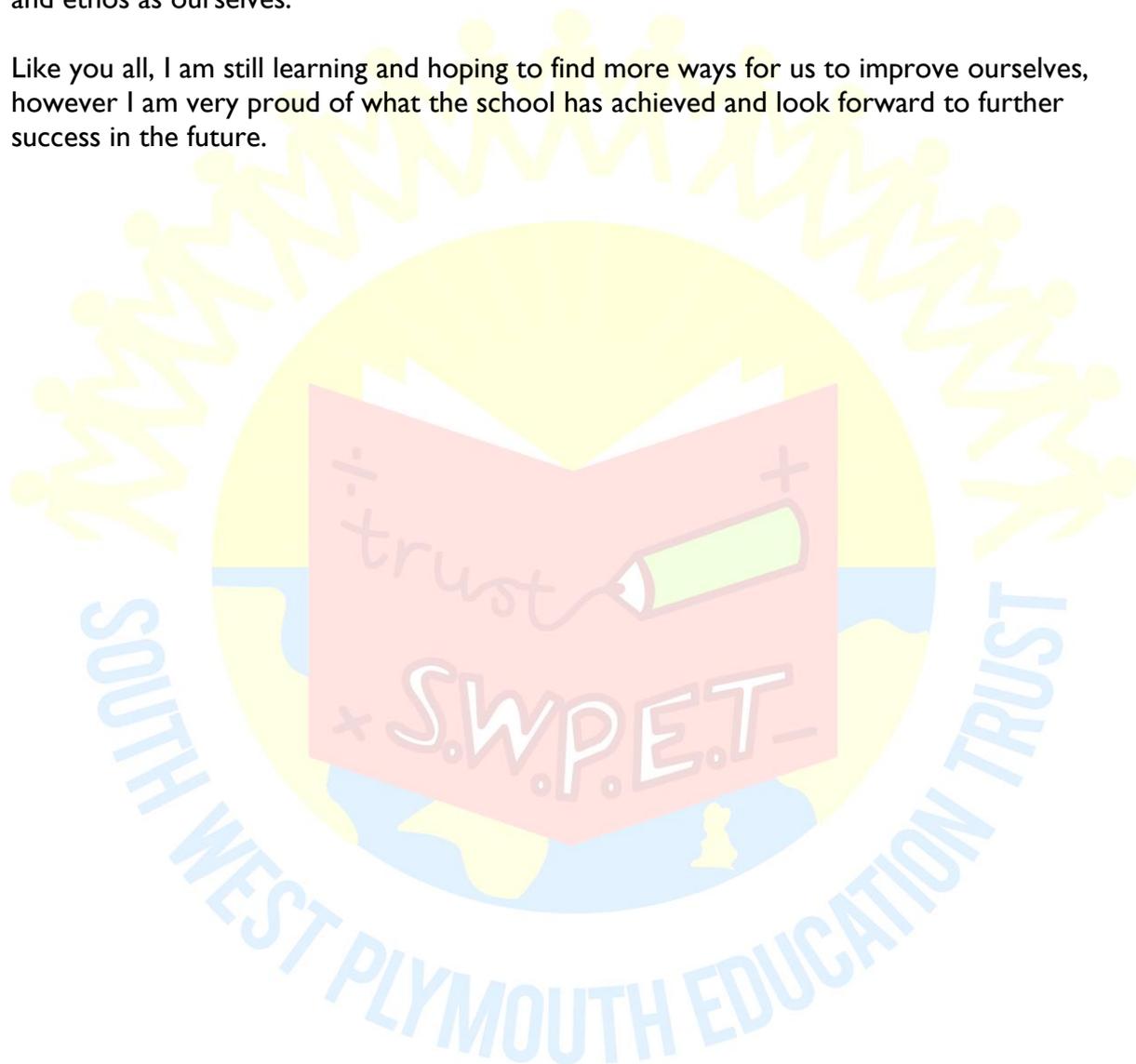
I became a school governor originally because my own children were very happy at College Road, and I felt that I might contribute something in gratitude. Since then I have become enthused by the staff and children and I realise how important it is for children to be given the best possible start in life, not only academically but also in personal development. I wanted education to be so exciting and such fun that children would be happy at school and achieve their full potential. I think your teachers and support staff have achieved this balance very well.

Meet the Governors

I hope that my experience in business and construction has been useful, and that my great interest in poetry and English language has bred a little enthusiasm for these arts in the pupils.

The school is a wonderful community of like-minded people, who want the best for you children. From your very supportive parents, to all the staff led by your inspirational head teacher and the school governors, all in partnership with yourselves. You are the whole reason why all the adults work so hard. Now we are expanding that community by adding the communities of the other six schools in the trust, who all subscribe to the same aims and ethos as ourselves.

Like you all, I am still learning and hoping to find more ways for us to improve ourselves, however I am very proud of what the school has achieved and look forward to further success in the future.



Meet the Governors

Mr Keith Finch  
Community Governor

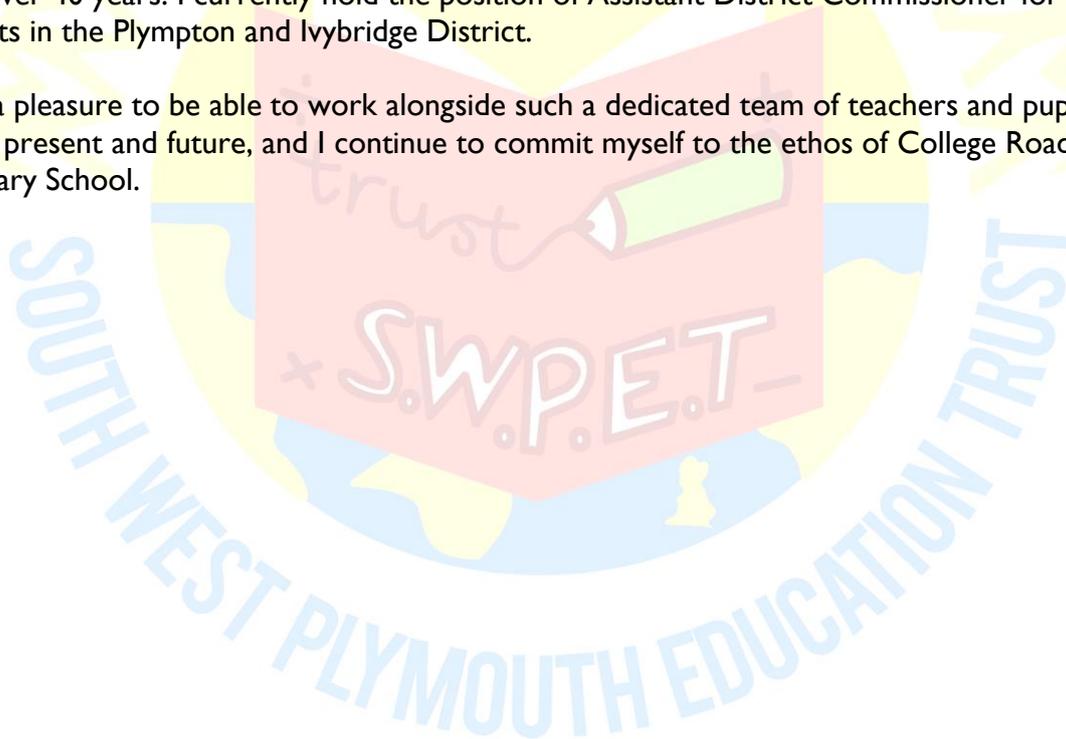
Vice Chair of Governors

My name is Keith Finch and I have served on the governing body at College Road for over 15 years, and am currently vice chair of governors and chair of the Learning and Environment committee.

My working career has spanned many industries, including electrical engineering, postal delivery, British Red Cross and the security industry.

My hobbies include rugby, cinema, theatre and scouting in which I have been involved with for over 40 years. I currently hold the position of Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts in the Plympton and Ivybridge District.

It is a pleasure to be able to work alongside such a dedicated team of teachers and pupils past, present and future, and I continue to commit myself to the ethos of College Road Primary School.



Meet the Governors

Mrs Jacquie Wain  
Local Authority Governor

I was born and brought up in a small town in Essex, in the east of the country. It's a very different place from Devon. Although people think of Essex as being very built-up, even today there are still lots of countryside and attractive coastline. The big difference is that Essex is very flat: cycling and walking in hilly Plymouth are far more demanding. I went to an ordinary local primary school and quite enjoyed it, although being out in the countryside with my friends was far more exciting. I was very slow to learn to read, and my parents became very worried. Then someone pointed out to them that if they stopped reading aloud to me, I might actually make the effort myself. That's what happened, and I haven't stopped reading since.



English was my favourite subject at Braintree County High School, and when I left there I became an apprentice journalist on the local newspaper. Reading and writing were key skills in a career I enjoyed for 40 years, and I still remember the teachers who encouraged me – and the headmistress who didn't!

Being a governor is a voluntary job and governors don't get paid, but it is rewarding in other ways. I'm also very curious about things and wanted to know what goes on in a school. Being a governor mainly involves attending meetings to hear how the school and people there are doing. Some of the best moments, though, are when governors are invited to school events or to help out: I come in as often as I can to listen to children read. That's because reading means so much to me, and I would like other people to enjoy it too. I also find that visiting College Road is a good remedy against the risk of taking a miserable view of the world: I am always impressed by the friendliness, enthusiasm and kindness of the children; the dedication and energy of the teachers and other school staff, and the wisdom of fellow governors with their skills from all sorts of different backgrounds. It is quite a privilege to be a governor at College Road.

## Mr Jim Wallace Headteacher

I'm originally from London, having been born in the south of the city, fourth of five children. I went to school in London too; I can still remember the name of my primary school and the name of my teacher when I started – Miss Jackman. She was brilliant, and smiled a lot and was always fair. I didn't really enjoy the juniors – I had the same teacher for four years, and he was an unpleasant and sour man. I always promised myself that if I ever had anything to do with schools, I would make sure that teachers were more like Miss Jackman, and not Mr Dartnell!



At secondary school I had to wear a black and white striped blazer and orange tie to school from the age of 11. I hated the uniform! To be honest, I didn't much like the school either, and I did get into quite a bit of trouble, 'cos I didn't always agree with the rules, or follow them.

I went to Liverpool University to study English Language and Literature, which is where I started to get interested in music and arranging concerts. I spent the next 12 years or so involved with putting on shows and concerts, managing pop bands, and working in the film industry. It wasn't really the thing for me, though, and although I'd always said I wouldn't be a teacher like my mum and many of my family in the past, I couldn't resist!! I studied in London again, and got my first job in a primary school in Tottenham, London.

My family and I moved to Devon, where I worked in a school in Ivybridge for seven years, teaching every year group, and then to Prince Rock school as deputy and Y6 teacher. I was lucky enough to be chosen as headteacher at this marvellous school in 2007, and I've had the most exciting, busy, privileged eight years I've ever had, here at College Road. This really is a great place to learn, and I'm lucky that the mix of talented staff and talented children, the wonderful governing body of the school and extraordinary parents combine together to make College Road the best school in Plymouth! I'm very proud of that, and I'll keep working hard, together with everyone else, to keep it that way.

My wife works nearby to the school in Plymouth, and my daughter is now 20 years old and studying at Kings College in London. Both of them try to keep a check on me, but together with my bouncy dog called Wiley, I do my best not to do everything I'm told!! This includes following my football team, Tottenham Hotspur, and getting lost whenever I can. I think the main reason I love this job so much is because all the people involved with College Road are 'like minded', and want the very best for the children of the school, not minding very much if the things we do are not necessarily what we're told to do, by people who don't know our school at all. Long may that continue.

Mrs Alex Blom  
Foundation Trust Governor

I was born in Plymouth a long time ago (!) and went to Montpelier Primary School followed by Devonport High School for Girls. I took a year out after my A-levels, which I spent in Paris as an au pair to two young children.

I graduated from Swansea University with a French and Business degree in the year 2000, having spent the third year of my course at a French university. I then spent some time living in London and Australia, but eventually came back to Plymouth.

Now I am married with three young boys who all attend College Road. When my eldest son was in foundation in 2011 I became a parent governor as I wanted to show my commitment to the school, get involved in my children's education and help support the school and the local community.

I became a member of staff in 2012 and am now the family support worker and a teaching assistant. I love my job; it is so varied, there's never a dull moment!

When my four years as parent governor came to an end recently, I became a trust appointed governor. I am also an active member of the PTA and enjoy helping out with school discos, organising summer fairs etc!

College Road is such a happy, lively school with so much going on. You can't help but get caught up in the positive and exciting school atmosphere. My children all love the school, as do I, and I'm looking forward to spending many more years working alongside the other school governors and continuing to make a difference.



Miss Leah Corbett  
Staff Governor

My name is Miss Leah Corbett and I have been a staff governor since 2014.

I started teaching at College Road in September 2013 in the Year 5 classroom. I taught in Year 5 for two years and in that time we have learnt a lot through the exciting topics that the children have chosen. My favourites have been 'Hocus Pocus', where we learnt how to do magic tricks and recorded our own magic shows and 'Lest we forget', where we went to visit HMS Courageous, learning all about submarines and how they have changed throughout the years. We also built a class Anderson shelter and made posters for how to react in the case of a bomb or nuclear attack.

Favourites from last year were 'Hollywood meets Bollywood'. As a class we wrote and filmed our own Bollywood movie with the help of writer and director Hugh Janes. We learnt so much about the filming process. Highlights from other topics include creating our own version of 'quidditch', making volcanic explosions, recreating the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' tune and going on residential at Heatree each year.

As a governor, I help to make sure that we spend money on the things that the children would like and need, such as tablets or playground equipment. I also help to hire new teachers and other members of staff.



Mrs Lindsey Clements  
Staff Governor

My name is Lindsey Clements and I have been a governor at College Road for 12 years I recently received a long service award recognising this.

I was born in Plymouth and have spent all of my life living here. I grew up in Pennycomequick and went to Stuart Road primary school. From there I went to Stoke Damerel Community College and left after completing my A levels at sixth form.

I worked in the care sector, looking after the elderly who had dementia and mental health problems, which I really enjoyed.

I returned to work after having my second son and decided to change my career path, so started training as a teaching assistant in the primary school that both my sons attended. I volunteered there for two years before the position at College Road became available. I applied for the position and was so pleased when I received the call from the headteacher offering me the post. I haven't looked back since.

I started working at College Road in November 2000, initially working only in the mornings supporting learning in Years 3 and 4. They were mixed class year groups back then. I remained supporting the Years 3 and 4 for many years until my role changed and I became a higher level teaching assistant supporting pupils across the school.

I find the challenges of being a school governor really enjoyable, as we strive to always think about what is best for the pupils of our school and constantly look at ways to make learning fun for all members of the school community.

I really enjoy working at College Road and hope to continue doing so for many more years.



Mrs Sarah Lees  
Foundation Trust Governor

As a child and young person I lived in and attended school in Plymouth and left the city aged 18 to go to university in Manchester. I studied environmental health, which combined academic study and learning with practical experience of working. I then worked as an environmental health officer for different local authorities for 20 years, working on things like improving housing conditions, water pollution, health and safety at work and food hygiene. I returned to live in Plymouth after some 10 or more years away, and later changed my career and undertook further training to become a consultant in public health in the NHS. I continue to have this role, though now I once again work for the local authority. I work on



understanding and trying to reduce the health inequalities that we see in Plymouth – that is, the difference between how healthy people are in different parts of the city. I am passionate about having excellent health services accessible to everyone and in helping people live in as healthy a way as they can. I am also particularly interested in mental health and wellbeing.

My lasting memory of school and education is that I had a couple of truly inspirational teachers. They were imaginative in their teaching, great story tellers who were so engaging in how they encouraged me and others to learn. They stretched us in our learning, but school and learning were always fun. My parents were also very supportive and always told me I could do whatever I wanted in life if I worked hard and really tried. I think these are the main reasons why I value education and life-long learning so much. I was the first person in my family to attend university and I know the opportunities that this has helped me to have in my life. I want every child to find learning fun, and to be inspired by school to want to learn throughout their lives for fun and to achieve their ambitions. As a governor I want to try to play a small part in this. Each time I visit school I am thrilled to see the fun our children have in their learning and the imaginative way in which our teaching staff are engaging with them.

I love sport, music and reading. I also love travelling to different places and learning about different cultures.

Mrs Victoria Eccles  
Parent Governor

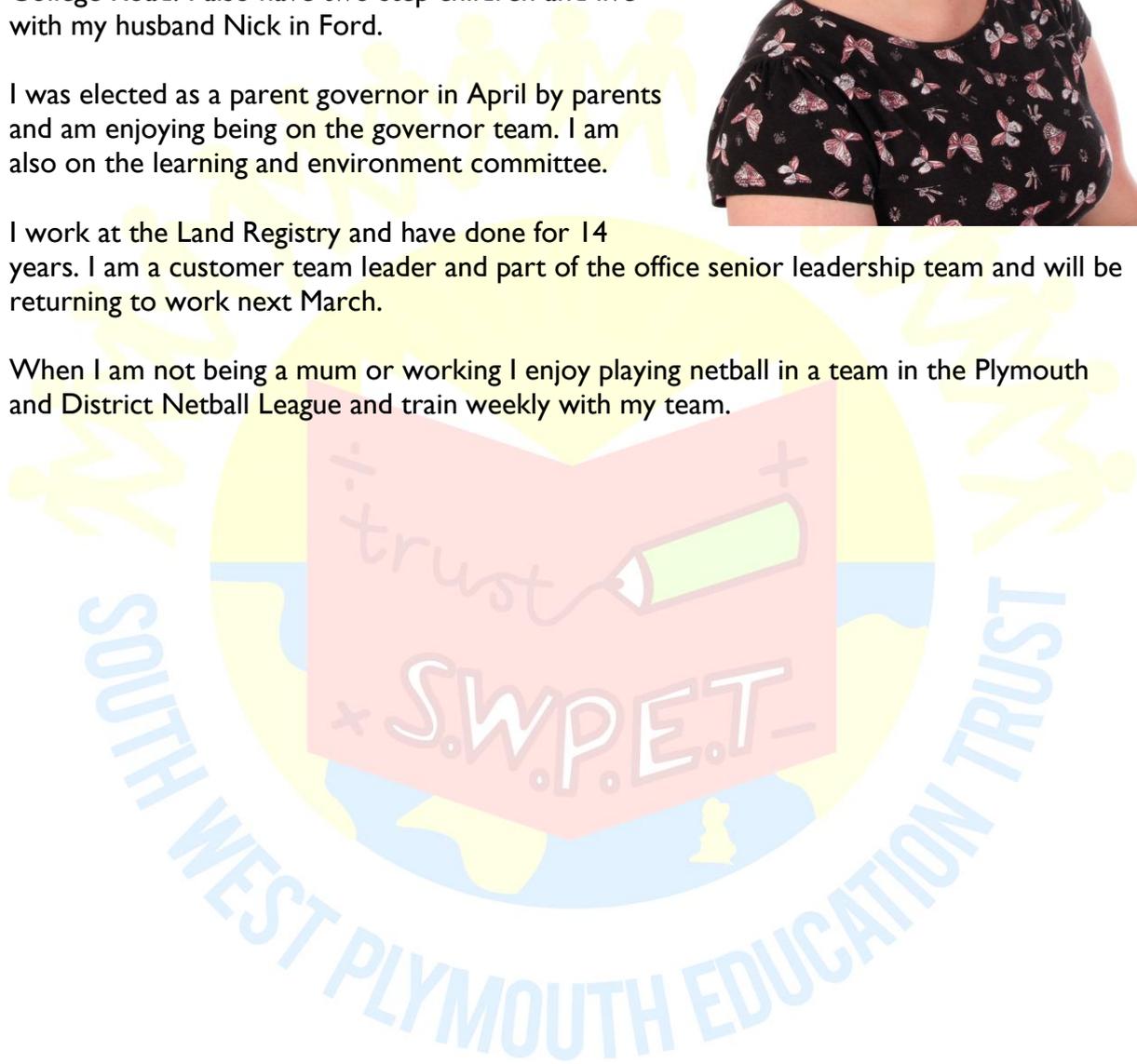
I am Victoria Eccles and I was born and raised in Plymouth.

I am currently on maternity leave after having my son Freddie in May. My daughter Florence is in year 1 at College Road. I also have two step children and live with my husband Nick in Ford.

I was elected as a parent governor in April by parents and am enjoying being on the governor team. I am also on the learning and environment committee.

I work at the Land Registry and have done for 14 years. I am a customer team leader and part of the office senior leadership team and will be returning to work next March.

When I am not being a mum or working I enjoy playing netball in a team in the Plymouth and District Netball League and train weekly with my team.

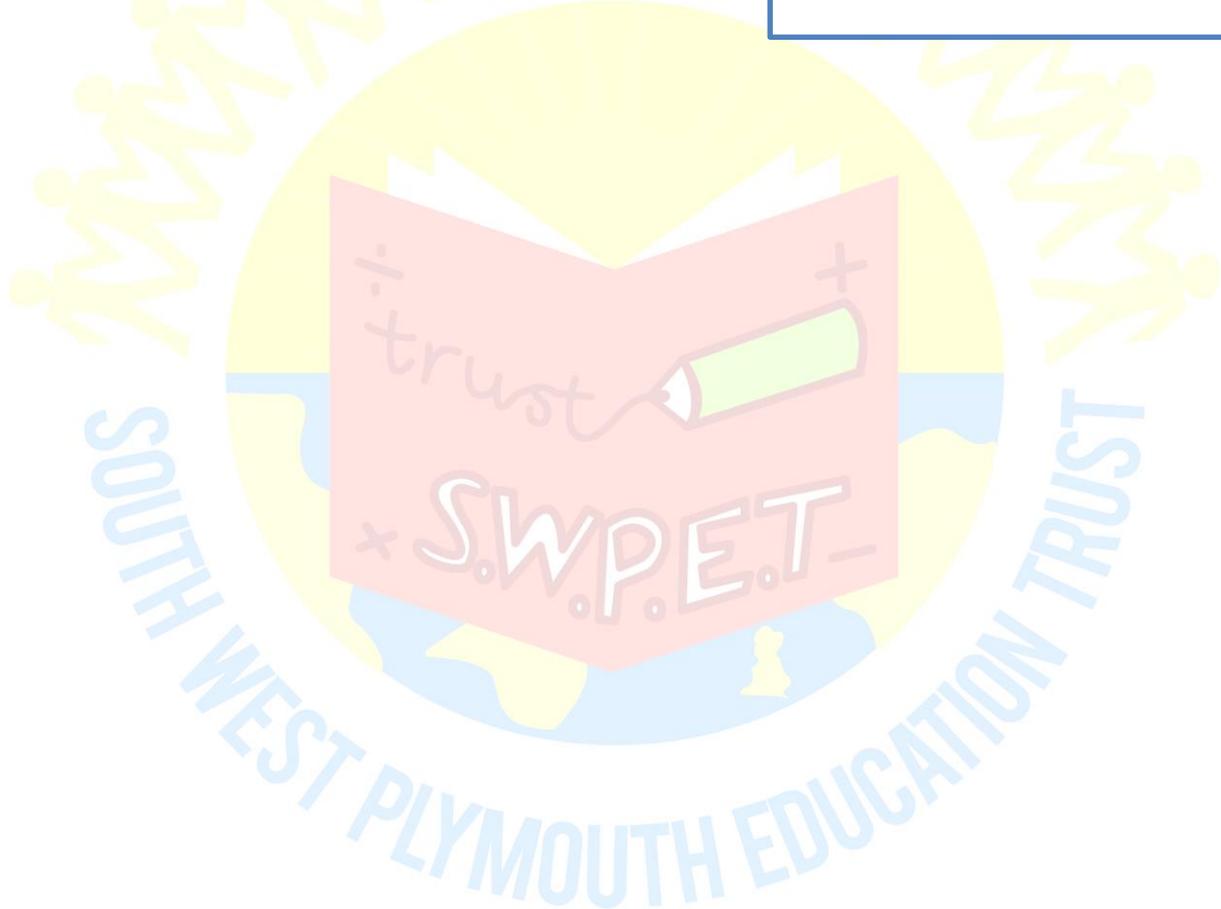


Mrs Urszula Korzeniowska  
Parent Governor

Hi, my name is Urszula and I come from Poland. It's hard for me to get used to a new environment and a new place. I am friendly, nice and a hard working person and I also like new adventures. I also like spending time with my daughter Anna and my son, Blazej. Every day is a new adventure for me, it's also hard for me not seeing my family who are miles away from me.

I enjoy being a parent governor and it's interesting for me to see the differences between English and Polish schools. I love spending time with children and so I like to get involved with the school and help out when I can.

Awaiting photo.....



Mrs Liane Cvetanovic  
Parent Governor

I was born in Plymouth and lived in Keyham until I was 21 years old. I was educated at Drake primary school and Devonport High School for Girls. I attended Plymouth College of Art and later moved to the midlands to complete my education gaining a BA (Hons) 3-D Design (glass) at Stourbridge College of Technology and Art.

After graduation I worked as a glassblower for five years. I then lived on Crete, Greece, working as an English teacher and artist. I returned to England and lived in Bristol before returning to my home town, Plymouth, in 2002. I am now working as an artist again, exhibiting at 'The Gallery' on Plymouth Hoe. I also work as a meal time assistant and enjoy being with the staff and pupils and experiencing school life more closely.

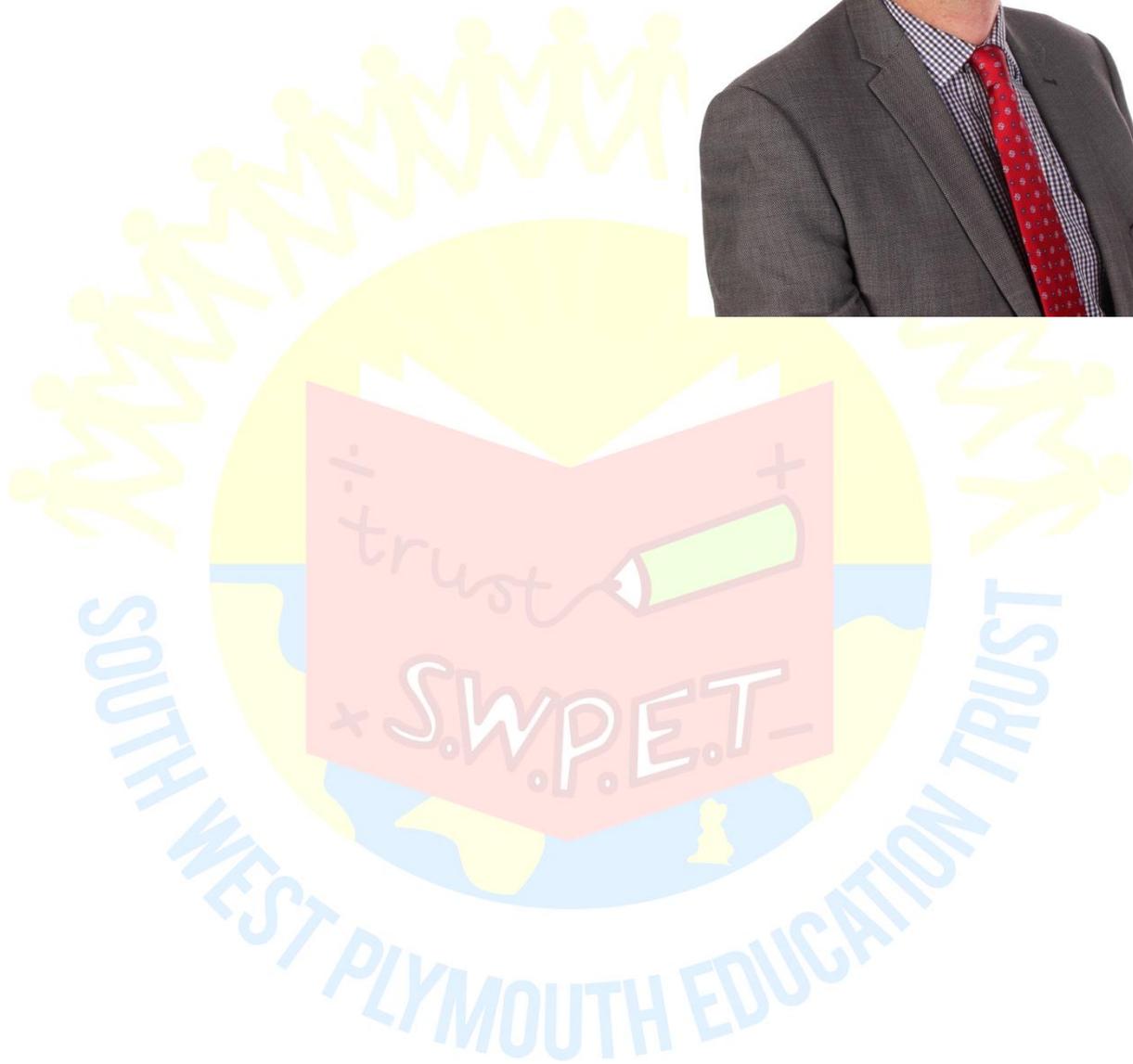


When my children were old enough to start school I looked at various local schools and decided that College Road was the one for my boys. The atmosphere, friendliness and ethos of 'learning is fun' appealed to me and I quickly enrolled my boys. The experiences and education that my own children have had here at College Road and the fantastic start in life that the teachers, headteacher, governors, parents and pupils have given them will stand them in good stead all their lives.

I look forward to some exciting times ahead with College Road School, helping new pupils to achieve all that I have seen past pupils achieve, and more. We will work together to give all children what they deserve, a good start in life and a good education.

Mr Nick Head  
Community Governor

Coming soon.....



Meet the Governors



# College Road Primary School



College Road Primary School is a member of The South West Plymouth Education Trust, a co-operative schools trust.

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