



Our Governing Body



Hello, I'm Andrew Scarborough,

I have lived in Wellingborough since 1987. I have been married to Sarah for over 30 years and we have two grown up daughters. We own and run a small company and I also work as a Mental Health Act manager to protect the rights of mentally ill patients in local hospitals and as an occasional lecturer at Warwick University. I also serve as a Magistrate on the Wellingborough Bench, where I am currently Chairman, and on the Youth Panel.

I am active in local politics and am one of the three Councillors for the Queensway Ward and Leader of the Labour Group on Wellingborough Borough Council. On the Council I serve as a member of the Resources and Planning Committees.

As well as my voluntary work as a Governor of Rowan Gate School I am a Governor of Friars School and of Northampton University and believe passionately that a good education should be available for all, whatever their age or abilities. I am also Treasurer of the Victoria Centre.

Outside work and public service, I'm a committed supporter of Northampton Saints, following them through thick and thin, and enjoy walking and bird-watching.



Hi I am Julia Coles and as well as being the Deputy Head at Rowan Gate East, I have recently joined the Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor.

I currently live in a small village near Kettering and have done so for several years. I am married to Will who works for the Local Authority in Virtual Schools; ensuring that the needs of Looked After Children are met. We have 3 children who attend Bishop Stopford School and Southfield School in Kettering.

I have had many roles at Rowan Gate Primary School since I began working here in September 2002 and during that time have seen the school grow from strength to strength as well as doubling in size.

Before working here I was a mainstream teacher for 13 years but have always felt passionately about meeting the needs of young children with learning difficulties, something I feel we do really well here at Rowan Gate.

Whilst my children were in Primary School I was a member of the PTA as well as a Parent Governor at their school as well as taking on the role of Chair of Governors for 3 very turbulent years.

I am also an active member of my local church and have been known, on occasion, to play the organ for family services!

When I am not at school I seem to spend a lot of time ferrying my children between music lessons, theatre groups and Rugby matches but I also enjoy baking, catching up with friends and getting out and about in the fresh air.



My name is Allison Walker-Bray and I am the Staff Governor at Rowan Gate Primary School.

I have lived in Wellingborough all of my life and have been a qualified Nursery Nurse for 25 years working at Rowan Gate for the last 15 years.

I am a Co-Leader of Wellingborough Gateway club a social club for Adults with learning difficulties which is affiliated to Mencap.

I also run the 7th Wellingborough Rainbows which is the youngest section of the Girl Guide Association at Great Park Street Methodist Church which I attend.

I am a member of the Health and Safety Sub Committee of the Governing body. We meet every term, inspect the school building, review risk assessments and accident forms to ensure that the school is a safe place to be.



My name is Nigel Redden and I am a co-opted Governor.

I have lived and worked in the vicinity of Wellingborough all my life and I am the third generation of a local family business, working alongside my father and brothers.

I have been married for over thirty years to Marilyn and we have a son and daughter. Our son has autism and learning difficulties and started off his education at Eastfield Park School, the renamed Rowan Gate site. Our daughter graduated last year and is now working.

In the past I played county badminton and was active in the organisational structure of the county in the position, for many years, of match secretary.

In my not too distant past I was an active member of Wellingborough Round Table, raising lots of money for various charities.

At present I am a member of the Wellingborough 41 club.

Outside my working and voluntary work, I enjoy playing tennis and golf. I am a supporter of Northampton Saints and enjoy walking, especially with our pet Jack Russell.

I am very committed to working hard towards the best outcome for Rowan Gate School, and all its pupils, and to supporting the school in any way that I can.



Hi My Name is Vania Vincer and I am a co-opted Governor. I was previously a parent governor. This is my third term as a governor.

I am Chilean by birth although I moved to the UK at the age of 8 having lived in Spain for seven years as a child. I have now lived in Wellingborough for 28 years.

My 7 year old son has a rare genetic disorder called Pallister - Killian Syndrome and has profound and multiple learning difficulties. He attended Rowan Gate from pre-school group and has now left the school. The Preschool was where I first learnt of Rowan Gate and its friendly, family culture and its ability to meet the needs of every individual child.

Prior to Santis' birth I was a Marketing Communications/Public Relations Manager for 12 years after graduating from Northampton University with a Business Studies and Spanish degree.

I have recently returned to work part time as a Marketing Co-ordinator for a small HR Consultancy business, working flexible hours from home to enabling me to juggle my sons many appointments and fit in the gym and Latin dancing.

I'm a member of the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee. Governors monitor teaching and learning, school development and pupil progress. We audit the schools Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural and Every Child Matters evidence, review Child Protection procedures and review policies to improve practices.

No photograph provided

My name is Mrs Samantha Baker and I am a Parent Governor and also the Chair of Governors.

I currently live in Thrapston with my husband of 14 years and we have adopted 3 children all with additional needs. My youngest attends Rowan Gate.

I have been involved with children with special needs for 14 years in various roles from Mum, respite care, foster carer and also as a teaching assistant in a special school.

In my professional career I spent several years as part of the senior management team for a commercial security company as an Area Manager and Quality Manager.

More recently I was a successful Sales Negotiator for a large national house builder for 6 years before giving up work to adopt our first child.

In my spare time I enjoy looking after, training and competing my 2 horses either eventing dressage or show jumping. I am also a controller and commentator for the cross country phase for British Eventing.



Hi, my name is Mike Santoro.

I've lived in Rushden all my life, but my roots originate from Sicily.

I attended Kingsley School, Kettering as a child. Most of my working life has involved young people and/or young people with disabilities.

As well as running my own business in Kettering, I am also a qualified Counsellor working for Service Six in Wellingborough.



Hi, I'm Tammy Byles and I am a Parent Governor.

I was born in Hampshire but have lived in Northamptonshire for all of my adult life, firstly living in Kettering, then moving to Wellingborough, then and finally settling in Higham Ferrers around 13 years ago.

I work part time at a structural engineering company and have done so for the last 20 years.

As well as recently becoming a Parent Governor, a member of the Teaching and Learning subcommittee, I am also part of the FORG (Parent Association) and I am enjoying all roles.

My daughter started at mainstream school but after being diagnosed with global developmental delay in 2015, it became clear that she needed much more support and specialised teaching than could be given there. She was lucky enough to be accepted into Roman Gate. She initially attended our Wellingborough site and then transferred to Rushden east, so I have had the privilege of seeing both sites running on a daily basis.

I have been extremely impressed with the level of care and patience given to all of the children attending Rowan Gate as well as the friendly and approachable staff. Seeing this was one of the reason behind my applying to become a parent governor.

