

Rebecca Overton: Chair of Governors

Being the Chair of Governors at St Matthews is a huge responsibility and a wonderful honor. I have been a governor since 2011 and have had the pleasure and privilege of working with the fantastic staff and children at the school in supporting them through various changes over the years. I am committed to the values and ethos of St Matthew's and feel lucky to be working alongside an excellent team of governors who also are committed to the school.

My passion for working with schools comes from my background of training as a secondary school RE Teacher many years ago. It was not a profession that I pursued but I have spent all my career working in Education Recruitment in order to still be in touch with the world of education and support schools by finding the right staff. In my spare time I enjoy reading, keep fit and yoga and going to the theatre as well as doing jigsaw puzzles, sometimes in 3D!

**Gareth Brown: Vice Chair**

Gareth is a highly committed Governor with 16 years of service to St Matthew's, including a term as Chair of Governors. His professional roles include serving as Team Leader and Co-Pastor of Raglan Road Christian Church and working part-time for the charity, Redeeming our communities. Having been a parent and carer at the school since 2003, Gareth is dedicated to ensuring St Matthews is an outstanding place that delivers both exceptional compassion and care and a high-quality education, setting every child up for the best start in life.

**Gary Bowman: Local Authority Governor**

After many years working for West Midlands local authorities, mostly leading community partnerships and community regeneration initiatives, Gary returned to the voluntary sector in 2019, and now holds trustee, director and development roles in several charities operating in West Birmingham and Sandwell. As a school governor, Gary is particularly focused on how communities and charities can enhance the work of schools, by improving links with their local neighbourhoods, supporting young people towards community participation, building resilience of children and young people and supporting families through innovative community projects. Gary works part time for an association of 23 schools in adjacent Handsworth wards of Birmingham.



<p>Lucy Mair: Foundation Governor</p> <p>I enjoy walking, yoga, going to the gym, swimming, playing squash. Theatre, cinema, music of all kinds. A keen cook. A member of the National Trust and English Heritage and friend of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Singing with City of Birmingham Choir. A school governor and involved with two charitable trusts.</p> <p>I'm married to John and we live in the Jewellery Quarter in central Birmingham with Alfie, a small Yorkshire Terrier.</p>	
<p>Dr Rev's Ian Williams: Foundation Governor</p> <p>Revd Prof Dr. Ian G. Williams has served as a Foundation Governor at St Matthew's School for 14 years, including several years as Chair of Governors. He is a retired Church of England priest and University lecturer, specialising in Religious Studies and teacher education. He has a particular interest in Safeguarding, the teaching of Religious Education, Collective Worship and how St. Matthew's as a Church of England best serves a diverse multi-faith community. He enjoys talking to children and listening to their faith stories!</p>	
<p>Andy Williams: Foundation Governor</p> <p>Andy is a foundation governor and is currently church warden at Birmingham Cathedral. Andy retired from a career in the NHS in November 2023 having held Chief Executive positions in Sandwell and West Birmingham and in Leicestershire. Andy holds professional qualifications in health service management and personnel management and has experience of governance in the voluntary sector as a trustee and chair of a local rights equality charity.</p>	

<p>Rev'd Ben Baker: Foundation Governor</p> <p>Ben Baker has been the Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's Bearwood since 2022 and soon will be the Priest-in-Charge at St Matthew's with St Chad's, our local church. He is excited about introducing children and young people to the Christian faith and is married with two daughters who attend primary school in Bearwood.</p>	
<p>Beverley Reynolds: Foundation Governor</p> <p>I have enjoyed a fulfilling career in Primary Teaching, beginning as a class teacher in KS1 and later, as a part-time working mum, I became the school SENCO. After moving to Birmingham, I gained a broad experience of KS2 teaching in differing primary schools through short term contracts and job shares. The final 20 years of my career were spent as an SEN teacher in a hospital school which included teaching at children's bedsides as well as home teaching children unable to access school for medical reasons.</p> <p>On the home front I have three daughters and still have two teenage grandsons living with my husband and I. Faith-wise, I am a committed member of St Mary's CofE Church, Bearwood taking on many roles as a volunteer.</p>	
<p>Samreen Iqbal: Parent Governor</p> <p>I am a parent governor with a strong interest in Special Educational Needs. I joined the governing board to support inclusive practice and contribute to the school's ongoing development. Professionally, I work within the NHS on international training programmes, giving me experience in education, training and workforce development. I am committed to supporting the leadership team and ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to thrive.</p>	