



**Governor Pen Portraits**  
**Barton, Ravensworth, East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham CE Schools**  
**January 2021**



Forename	Surname	Role on Governing Body		
	Helen	Dudman	Headteacher	<p>I have worked in small rural schools for over 20 years and am well aware of the vital role that these small schools play within their communities.</p> <p>I was appointed as Headteacher of Kirkby Fleetham CE School in September 2013, and became Executive Headteacher of East Cowton CE School in September 2015 when the schools federated. In September 2019 the schools entered into partnership with Barton and Ravensworth CE Schools and from then I have had the privilege of working with our amazing staff team to develop and strengthen a really solid partnership.</p> <p>I consider myself really lucky to be able to work in such beautiful settings, with such fabulous children and their families and enjoy the variety and challenge that being a head of four small schools brings!</p>
	Terry	Cane	Interim Chair of Governors	<p>Currently apart from my role as interim chair of governors I am supporting the governance of another school and also a school governor of a local school.</p> <p>I am a National Leader of Governance, appointed in April 2015, I have worked with over 30 schools, including primary secondary and schools with different Ofsted gradings, in this time. The role has included supporting chairs of governors, facilitating governing board self-evaluations and leading effective governance sessions.</p> <p>I am a keen golfer and play regularly in club competitions, I enjoy gardening, walking and when necessary DIY, not sure if it's a hobby! I prepare the Parish accounts for the 2 Parishes where I attend church.</p> <p>I have undertaken various governor training sessions mainly N L G training, External Reviews of Governance, Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, School Finance, school admissions and oversubscription.</p> <p>I have served as a school governor from 2002, as a chair of governors since 2006</p>



Chris Gent Governor

I am married and have two children, both of which attended East Cowton Primary School and I have retained links with the schools becoming Chair of Governors for both East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham seeing the schools through Federation, joining the Dales Academies Trust and more recently collaborating in the formation of 4 small rural schools – Barton, East Cowton, Kirkby Fleetham and Ravensworth.

I run my own company in education recruitment.

During my time on the governing board I have attended many training sessions including SIAM's training and Safer recruitment

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Melba Chambers Parent

I have lived in the community for over 40 years. I was previously a pupil at East Cowton where my daughter now attends. I have joined the governing body to show support to our schools which are committed to helping students reach their full potential.

My hobbies include horse riding and I have enjoyed competition show jumping in the past.

I have degrees in Law and Animal Science.

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Marie Mann Staff

I am Marie Mann, staff governor and the Base Leader and KS2 teacher at East Cowton where I have been teaching for the last 7 years. I am maths and computing subject leader. I am passionate and committed to ensuring that all children get access to an outstanding education which allows them to achieve their full potential. In my time at East Cowton one of the key contributions I have made is supporting the Headteacher in developing and building relationships, initially across the federation with Kirkby Fleetham and more recently as the school collaborated with Barton & Ravensworth.

As a mum of two boys, one a secondary school and one in primary, we love to go for walks in the Dales as a family. We are actively involved in our local church where we enjoy serving the community through projects such as the food bank.

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Rachel Savage Governor

Both my children attended Kirkby Fleetham Church of England Primary School and I have been a governor for in excess of 7 years having roles of Link Governor for Special Educational Needs and more recently Link Governor for Literacy.

I have worked in educational settings at both primary and secondary level and am presently employed as a Laboratory Technician at Richmond St Francis Xavier Secondary School.

My hobbies include reading and walking.



Barbara Whittle Foundation

I have long established links with Barton as both my daughter and myself attended the school.

I have played the church organ at Barton since I was 15 and for many years have been a Foundation Governor at Barton. Most of my hobbies involve a craft of some kind although I also enjoy doing jigsaws and anything to do with cooking.

I have been Chair of Governors at Barton for many years and then Chair of the combined Governors at Ravensworth and Barton – seeing both schools through many strategic changes.

Training includes Safer Recruitment where I have sat on a number of staff recruitment panels.

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Kellie Harris Staff

I am Class Teacher and Maths subject lead at both Barton and Ravensworth Schools and work closely With Marie Mann who is Maths subject lead at East Cowton and Kirby Fleetham. Working collaboratively sharing our experience in KS1 and KS2 has enabled us develop a long-term plan that enables quality teaching and learning across the four schools.

Before teaching I worked in Service Children’s Education as a Teaching Assistant and have lived in Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Germany whilst my husband was serving in the Forces.

On retiring from the Forces my husband has worked tirelessly to extend, refurbish and modernise our house. I am enjoying making it into our forever family home after living in numerous houses and moving every two years - we are enjoying being settled for a while. I have two children aged 24 and 18 and as a family we enjoy spending time together, walking the dog at the beach whilst the children surf even in winter!

We all also enjoy cooking and baking together too.

I have been staff governor since I began teaching and working at Barton school nearly 6 years ago.

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Corinne Bell Governor

My name is Corinne Bell and I have lived in Ravensworth for 23 years. I grew up in a small rural village in the North East of Scotland and wanted our daughter to have the same educational experience and freedom that I did attending a village school hence our move Ravensworth.

I first became involved with Ravensworth primary school when our daughter Ailsa started back in 2000. I joined the School Friends and subsequently became a Governor spending a period as Chair of Governors. I took a break from the role of Governor for a few years whilst Ailsa was at secondary school but re-joined around 7yrs ago.

I have enjoyed watching our school grow and develop. The partnership we now have with Barton, East Cowton and Kirby Fleetham is an exciting new phase. Rural schools face so many challenges and I have been so privileged to have been part of the great team of Governors that we have. I particularly enjoy the role of SEND Governor which I have done for several years.

I came down to the North East to work for Northern Gas as a Home Economist and after a few years moved into post 16 Education and Training. I worked for several years in training and management with County Durham TEC as a Training Manager.

I now spend my time in the garden, walking, cycling, reading, charity fundraising and enjoy travelling when we can!



Susannah Bateman Foundation

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We moved to Ravensworth from London in 2007 and I began listening to children read at Ravensworth Primary School soon afterwards. I really enjoy helping children with their reading and this gives me the opportunity to meet with pupils and staff on a regular basis.

I was appointed a Foundation Governor in 2014 and joined the SMSC committee, which I have chaired since 2016. I have undertaken Governor training for Safeguarding, Effective Monitoring and Understanding Christianity.

My background and training is in Mathematics and Computing, and I was appointed the Link Governor for Science. I look forward to being the Link Governor for Mathematics for our newly formed group of four schools. I have recently retired from working part time as a systems analyst developing a Health Information System, so I will have more time to help with achieving the best outcomes for all pupils.

We have four married sons, and seven grandchildren so far, the youngest family lives in the USA.

I enjoy swimming and playing tennis, walking the dog, playing the piano and escaping to the West Coast of Scotland for family holidays.

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A semi-retired clergyman, married to Brenda and living in a cottage in Gilling West, with three grown-up children and eight grandchildren. One of my daughters has a degree in Archaeology, the other is a Junior School Headteacher. My son is a Chartered Surveyor living in Richmond Surrey.

Alan Gledhill Governor

I have had a career in Secondary school teaching Geography and also in middle management as Assistant Head and SENCO. My teaching posts were in inner- Leeds and Richmondshire.

Ordained some 35 years ago and vicar of Parishes in North Yorkshire before I semi-retired, I still assist in churches as and when required.

My interests are in photography, especially enlarging and printing black and white photography. I am also restoring a 1949 Riley car which may, or not one day be completed – I have to go in faith!



Kirstie Petch Staff

I graduated from Nottingham Trent University in 1997 with a Bed (hons). After a brief spell working in both Nottingham and then South Gloucestershire we re-located to North Yorkshire and I secured a position at Colburn Community Primary School. I worked there for 18 years, the difference you can make to a child's life working in an area of social deprivation is incredibly fulfilling. I joined Ravensworth School in 2017 as a Class teacher – it was a very different experience to what I had had before but it made me see what I was capable of. I was appointed interim Deputy Headteacher in 2019 and have loved working across the four school and getting to know the staff and children.

As a part of my role, I am currently working on my NPQSL qualification with a focus on metacognition. I am also the deputy safeguarding lead across the four schools and have my paediatric first aid certificate which we completed in September 2020. In addition to this I am a moderator for KS2 writing for North Yorkshire which has been not only fantastic professionally for myself but a real benefit to our group of schools too.

I live in Middleton Tyas with My husband, Simon, and three children. I enjoy reading, gardening and shopping (for shoes!) when I have any spare time.

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Simon Collins Parent

I was born and raised in Kent and I have spent much my working life in education. I worked in a French University for two years and began my teaching career in a leading-edge secondary school where I became Head of Languages.

Since then, I have worked in primary education in a wide variety of settings. In 2018 we decided as a family to move to North Yorkshire; supply teaching has led me to a position with North Yorkshire Virtual School; I am currently seconded to an education Covid support team within North Yorkshire public health.

I have wanted to be a Governor for a long time and I am delighted to be part of the Governing Body.



Jenni Rev. Lane Ex Officio

I was ordained in 2008 and since then have been on a number of school governing bodies. I am currently Rector to the Lower Swale Benefice which supports two CofE schools, one of which is at Kirkby Fleetham.

I have undertaken introductory courses to school governorship and was the SEN governor in a previous position. I have supported 3 schools through SIAMs inspections and have been happy to provide information to visiting inspectors regarding faith development and future growth in this area.

I absolutely adore journeying alongside our children and sharing my experiences of the Christian faith with them as well as developing and nurturing their own through Collective Worship and visits.

I have 5 dogs, some of which have also joined in Collective Worship in churches. Hobbies include reading, when I have the time!