

Meet the Governors

The recent survey of parents and carers revealed that few of you feel you know who the governors are. The governors were very keen to remedy that and so have put together a short piece about themselves and why they want to be a governor at our wonderful school.



Chair of Governors: Miguela Gonzalez



Miguela Gonzalez has been Governor with Grangetown Primary School since 2016, and became the Chair in 2021. She also has responsibility on the governing body for safeguarding and sits on the Curriculum, School Improvement and Finance committees.

She is the Head of Diversity and Inclusion at Abcam, a global biotech firm. Prior to this, she worked in the media for 15 years, mostly as a journalist with the BBC, but also in data analysis, project management and subject matter expertise roles.

Miguela is also a Commissioner with the Welsh Government's Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, a trustee on the boards of National Theatre Wales and Shelter Cymru and a visiting academic at Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture.

She brings to her role, as the Chair of the Governing Body, insights gained from wide-ranging experiences in a number of

committees, teams and projects, including innovation funds, art installations and music festivals.

Vice-Chair of Governors: Ashley Lister

As a former pupil of Grangetown Primary its an absolute privilege to be Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and still be involved in all of the amazing work which the school does.

Grangetown is such a diverse, welcoming area which has so much opportunity for our future generations to achieve the best they possibly can. I have a background in community engagement and youth work, as well as now being one of the local Councillors for the area and want to do all I can to give back to the school which helped me get where I am today.



Our Parent Governors

Ameena Sarwar:



Recently I completed my Bachelors of Science Degree at Cardiff University and will be starting my Master's Degree in Research Methods there soon.

My interests include working towards making Cardiff a more equal and fairer place for everyone to live in.

I became a governor because I wanted to understand how decisions regarding my children's education was being made. I wanted to be a part of that discussion and to make sure my voice as a South Asian mother was being heard.

In my experience, I have found Grangetown Primary School to be good at engaging with parents. I would encourage parents to continue liaising with the school, in order to nurture and maintain the wonderful parent-staff relationship. It is my hope that parents and school can work together so that Grangetown Primary School can be an exceptional learning environment for all of our children that go there.

Huda Ahmed Ali

Hobbies/interests: Reading and Gardening.

Why did you become a governor? I become governor so I could make a positive impact within the school. I am confident and enthusiastic about sharing ideas, working with others as part of a team but also giving space to the seldom heard. As a Muslim woman of colour I believe that representation is key and that any Board, such as this one, needs to reflect the communities it represents. As a parent, who has two children in the school, I am hugely invested in making the school fair and successful for all those involved. I want to ensure that children from all backgrounds get a fair chance in life and that are successful as our future generations.

Things you're keen to encourage in the school: I am keen on having an impacting on ensuring that the school is kept covid safe and that all staff and children as aware of what they need to do continue to have a safe, welcoming environment. I want to positively change the way behaviour is managed and to ensure this is done in a tailored and accessible way.



Ferzana Rehman I attended GPS along with my siblings and then my children. I now work as a MDS at the school and also take up a role as a LSA in the school from time to time. Learning new skills and knowledge that will help me and others around me is what interests me the most.

The reason I become a governor was so that I could be a voice for the parents and children of the school. I wanted to represent those voices.

I would like to encourage the clubs we have at the school at lunchtime and after school, we already have a variety throughout the school focusing on different activities which keeps the children engaged and focused on learning new skills or even improve ones they already have. Job well done to everyone at GPS!

Nick Rowe is a Chartered Accountant and has worked for PwC in Cardiff for about 25 years. He is married and has two children in Bishop of Llandaff High School.

He joined Grangetown Primary School as a Community Governor 4 years ago to provide commercial guidance to the Governors in their decision making and has recently taken over as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Since joining he has been a link governor for both maths and technology which links closely with the skills that are important in his work. In addition, Nick works with PwC on implementing their social mobility policies in the Cardiff area which has a significant connection with opportunities for our pupils as they move onto High School and then into the workplace.



Dr Cathryn Knight

Hobbies/interests: I am currently a Senior Lecturer in Psychology in Education at the University of Bristol. My main research interest is additional learning needs (ALN) and inclusion in Wales. I have also done research looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector.

Why did you become a governor?: I chose to become a governor so that I can use my expertise in the area of education, to strengthen an educational community. As a researcher in education, I am passionate about areas such as inclusive education and wellbeing. I have worked across a number of Welsh Government projects to support schools and teachers on areas related to wellbeing, ALN and COVID-19. I also previously worked as a Learning Support Assistant in a primary school in Cardiff, therefore, I enjoy using my practical understanding of school structures to support the school.

Things you're keen to encourage in the school: As the Governor for ALN and Wellbeing, I will be supporting the school in ensuring an inclusive environment where all learners feel they belong.



Ali Abdi is a former pupil of Grangetown Primary, he left in 1996 and continues to be a friend of our school. Many pupils and families will know Ali from his work on the Cardiff University project Community Gateway which is responsible for the Grange Pavilion in Grange Gardens. The brand new building transformed the former vacant Bowls Pavilion and now has a regular weekly programme of activities for children and young people including a Reading Club, award winning Youth Forum, After School Multi Sports and a Study Club. Ali's work focuses on building a successful partnership between Cardiff University and the community of Grangetown and managing community and youth events in the Grange Pavilion.

Hobbies/interests: youth work, organising the community, sports, business and international development. Ali was awarded a British Empire Medal by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Years Honours List 2021 for his work in the Grangetown community. During the Covid-19 pandemic Ali Abdi and a team of Muslim volunteers from Grangetown gave out over 100 food parcels during Ramadan weekly to families across Grangetown and was recognised by FOR Cardiff as Cardiff Covid Heroes.



Our Staff Governors

Hi everyone! :)

My name is **Vicky Price**. I am a teacher governor at Grangetown Primary school and have taught here since 2012. I have taught in reception, year 2, year 3 and currently teach in year 4. I enjoy being a staff governor as I can bring a staff view point to governor discussions.



Hello! I'm **Helena Lalik**, a person from many backgrounds: a Ukrainian from Poland with a Slovakian husband. In Poland I worked as a primary school teacher and I was a florist. I came to the UK 15 years ago with 2 young daughters. One was 3 and the other 7 years old. I could speak Ukrainian, Polish, Slovakian, Russian but no English. I attended ESOL classes to learn English and attended various training on how to support families and ethnic minorities. First, I worked as bilingual teaching assistant across Cardiff helping Czech, Polish and Slovakian families. Then I applied to Grangetown Primary as Family Liaison Officer 7 years ago. I like my job very much. It's a pleasure to meet, speak, help and organise different classes for the parents of Grangetown and people of the local community. But the biggest joy is to see parents coming, attending different events and classes in the Huts, gaining qualifications and getting the jobs they want.



Jan Knowles (Clerk to Governors)

I am a mum of three grown up daughters and I first became a Governor when they were students in our local Infant and Primary School in Rhondda Cynon Taff about twenty years ago! I am now employed part time as Clerk to the Governing Body, providing administrative support to the Governors of several schools in the Cardiff area including Grangetown Primary. I have a keen interest in education and I also work in a Specialist Resource Base for Students with a diagnosis of Autism.

In my spare time I volunteer and support a dog rescue Centre and am the proud 'Grandmother' of two rescue dogs. I enjoy reading, listening to music and crafting. I particularly enjoy live music events and Musical Theatre.

