



## Meet the Governors

### **Ophélie Barbet – Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)**

I am French and settled in the UK over twenty years ago after graduating from business school. My professional background is in project delivery, change management and organisation development. I have worked with large retail, hospitality and public sector organisations.

Since visiting the school for the first time in 2014, I was inspired by its strong values and community spirit. I wanted to become part of the school governing body to contribute my time and skills and support the senior leadership team whilst the school continues to grow and embraces new challenges. I have been a governor at Pinner Wood since 2017 and am as passionate today as I was when I first stepped into the role about making Pinner Wood an inclusive and exciting place of learning, where our children receive the best education possible.

### **Dhurita Radia (Co-opted Governor)**

To have an impact on the next generation is something of great value, and I'm excited to be involved. I am a Management Accountant currently working as a CFO Business Manager at a large global banking group. My role in Finance in the banking industry has provided me with strong skills of stakeholder partnering, implementing new projects and processes and budgetary control.

I am very passionate about being able to give back to the local community and contributing to the children's personal development. I want to be part of making decisions that will improve the learning environment and future prospects for children in schools. I am looking forward to contributing my time and skills, supporting the leadership team at Pinner Wood and playing a key role in helping the school achieve its full potential.

### **Joel Suthesh (Co-opted Governor)**

I am currently a teacher of Computer Science & IT at a local secondary school in Pinner, with responsibility for KS3 Computer Studies, and Deputy Leader for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Coming from an educational background, I know the challenges, hard work and dedication that goes into delivering quality education. I am keen to work alongside Pinner Wood, to ensure that our children continue to receive a quality education while being happy and gaining confidence in all areas. I believe this will give them a solid foundation to build a successful future regardless of their background.

The past years have highlighted the importance of technology, and with my IT background, I look forward to looking at ways we can continue to improve the IT provision at Pinner Wood. Wellbeing is an area that I am also passionate about and am involved heavily within my job. As a governor, I want to ensure that we are looking after and supporting the wellbeing of our children, parents and staff. I am committed to helping our children live through the Pinner Wood values to ensure they become confident, curious, resilient and ready for the next stage of their educational journey.



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### **Georgiana Lisk (Co-opted Governor)**

I am a qualified Chartered Accountant (ICAEW) for over 24 years and founder of a local business consultancy, a hands-on business development service supporting self-employed, start-ups, micros and SMEs achieve their goals. Becoming a school governor has been a goal of mine since my first child embarked on his educational journey, 15 years ago. The opportunity to join Pinner Wood School materialised and I was delighted to join the governing board in September 2021 and take on the role as Chair of Resources.

After visiting the school, it was clear to see the community spirit that exists. The values are not just 'words'; one could feel their essence throughout the school, from the inspiring and engaging décor, all who work at Pinner Wood School to the guest of honours – the children. A good education should not be for the privileged few and at Pinner Wood, each child benefits from an excellent education in and out of the classroom. Gifting a child the love of learning contributes to a strong foundation, on which to build a successful future. I am honoured to be part of this vibrant, dedicated community and looking forward to using my skills, expertise and connections for the betterment of the school and the fortunate children who school within.

### **Sanjana Tiwari (Co-opted Governor)**

I settled in the UK over seventeen years ago after graduating from INSEAD business school. My professional background is in private market investments and advisory, product management and business development. I have worked with large banks, asset managers and innovative tech companies across the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, India and Singapore.

Having raised two sons in the UK, I believe holistic education is fundamental to achieving one's development and growth potential. Pinner Wood school epitomises holistic education. So, I was truly delighted when I learned I will be joining the governing board of the school. I believe this opportunity would allow me to support the school leadership team in raising a confident and well-rounded future generation.

I look forward to leveraging the skills honed over two decades in professional settings to now give back to my community in a meaningful way.

### **Lindsay Collins (Local Authority Governor)**

I have been a Pinner Wood School's Governor for over 20 years, firstly as a Parent Governor in the two schools when my three children were at Pinner Wood First and Middle Schools. Subsequently I have also served as a Co-opted Governor and continue now as a Local Authority Governor. During this time I have served variously as Chair of Governors (to both Schools), Vice Chair of Governors and also Chair on many of the schools' Committees. I have seen the school through a number of changes, including amalgamation and continue to be involved in work to improve the school for the children, and support the teachers and staff to make Pinner Wood one of the best schools in the area. I also support the Friends of Pinner Wood School and help at their two main annual events.



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### **Ben Crowhurst (Parent Governor)**

I am an Estates Manager at a large Independent School in North London and have worked in Estates and Facilities Management for nearly 20 years. I have worked across a variety of establishments from Schools to Government Offices and Leisure Centres and have an excellent understanding of how to ensure buildings are safe for the people that use them. I have been a parent at Pinner Wood since 2016 and have children in Year 3 and Year 6, and I have long been impressed with the passion, dedication and enthusiasm that the staff put in to educate the children.

Having grown up in Harrow and lived here for most of my life, I feel hugely privileged to be able to serve on the Governing Body and give back to the School community using the skills I have developed in my career, supporting the staff to ensure they can continue to deliver outstanding outcomes for children from all backgrounds in our community. I have already been struck by the enthusiasm my fellow Governors have to do the same, and I look forward to working with them moving forward to help Pinner Wood continue to thrive.

### **Fahim Chowdhury (Parent Governor)**

I became a parent Governor in 2020 after my son started in Reception. I am an Economist and a qualified 11-18 school teacher. I have worked in schools for nearly two decades holding positions of leadership and management in several outstanding schools.

I am passionate about the education of our young people and believe every child deserves the best education to fulfil their potential and lifelong aspirations. My experience includes teacher training, leading faculties to outstanding results and achieving OFSTED and ISI inspection outstanding in areas of teaching, student attainment and student development.

The impact of an outstanding Key Stage 1-2 education benefits students all the way to their secondary education (Key Stage 3-5) and beyond. It is for this reason I believe that the support and provisions made for students in primary school is one of the utmost importance. I bring to PWS commitment, knowledge, and skills from my professional background, as a parent and as a member of the local community. As governors we hold the leadership team to account to help Pinner Wood successfully deliver on its aims and vision, in an ever-changing landscape. This is a very exciting period for the school, and I feel privileged to be part of such a dedicated team.

### **Tejal Tanna (Parent Governor)**

I have been a parent governor at Pinner Wood since 2020. I am a solicitor advocate and company director of local firm of solicitors. I specialise in family law including children matters and have first-hand experience of safeguarding matters. I am passionate about providing a voice for all, promoting diversity, and ensuring that all children have a safe environment in which to fulfil their potential.

Pinner Wood is known for its outstanding status. The passion and commitment of the leadership team and staff is infectious, and I look forward to bringing my skill set and unique perspective to contribute to the continuous improvement of the school.



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### **Rinku Harjani (Parent Governor)**

I have 2 lovely kids in Pinner Wood School and joined the board as a Parent Governor in December 2021. I am totally invested in what the school has to offer, both academically as well as for their overall development – key skills that children need to survive in the world today. I am committed to supporting the school in driving the best outcomes for the children and believe a constructive engagement with the school community, parents and carers is the way forward.

I grew up in Lagos (West Africa), worked in Mumbai (India) for a few years and have been based in London ever since. With exposure to life in different major cities, I feel I view things with a more global and diverse perspective. Also, I have a Masters in Public Health & Advertising (2 contrasting yet complementing disciplines), which I believe add insight into my approach. I firmly believe in creating fun and memorable educational experiences which can nurture a lifelong love of learning in our children and build their confidence, resilience, and self-awareness. I am very excited to be part of the team that ensures that Pinner Wood remains an outstanding school and that the ethos of advancement and excellence is passed on at all levels even amongst the youngest of our children.

### **Tuli Palit (Parent Governor)**

I have been a part of the Pinner Wood family since 2014 when my eldest child joined the school in Nursery. I am very pleased to have joined the Governing Body from 2021 and hope I can support this very special school.

I am a Primary School Teacher with over 15 years' experience working in every Primary School Key Stage. I also have over 25 years' experience in Special Educational Needs provision and working with Social Services, not only working as a teacher but from the perspective of the parent and family. I have an insight into everything families have to do in order to support their children. I decided to become a governor as I am keen to share these skills and experiences, which I hope will support this wonderful school.

### **Sarah Marriott (Headteacher)**

I joined Pinner Wood in September 2012 as the Deputy Head and was delighted to be appointed as the Headteacher from September 2017. From the moment I stepped through the door, I was struck by the energy and vibrancy around the school. It is a very exciting place to learn and work. Pinner Wood is a school which puts children right at the heart of everything, and this is an ethos that I am totally committed to.

For me, teaching is the only career I ever wanted to do - I think it was in my blood! Before Pinner Wood, I have worked at two primary schools in Hertfordshire as a teacher, Assistant Head teacher and Deputy Head. I have taught through the year groups, from reception to year six, so feel that I have lots of valuable experiences that I bring to my role here.

I really enjoy being Headteacher at Pinner Wood and believe that we make a difference to the children that come here.



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### **Jo Bretayne (Deputy Headteacher – Co-opted Governor)**

Having started my teaching career in Leeds and then in other schools in Harrow I joined Pinner Wood School in November 2000. I have taught each Key Stage from Foundation to Key Stage 3 in a variety of roles: music teacher, class teacher, Key Stage Leader and Assistant Head Teacher. It is now my privilege to be the Deputy Head Teacher.

Pinner Wood is a very special place in which to learn and work because we are all passionate about maximising children's successes and life chances. We are a family that works together to achieve the very best for the children. Inclusion is at the heart of what we do and we are a school that values everyone. Everyone matters and everyone belongs.

### **Kirsty Francis (Staff Governor)**

After spending 15 years at Pinner Wood as a nursery nurse and teaching assistant, my desire to become a teacher grew, and I started my teaching career in 2018. I have experience working in a number of roles across all year groups, and I presently lead on art and teach in Year 1. I am passionate about working with children who have special educational needs, and I am constantly looking for opportunities to expand my own knowledge and understanding in order to help all of our children achieve their full potential. I have an Eklan qualification in speech and language, and more recently, I completed my SENCo qualification.

### **Tara Oldham – Clerk to the Governing Body**