

**Fiona Barry** - I am one of the Deputy Head teachers at Athelstan. I am responsible for Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding, behaviour and attendance. I have been teaching for over thirty years and feel privileged to be in a position to make a real difference to our pupils. Team Athelstan is a highly inclusive environment, which we are all proud of. We have a highly committed pastoral team, who enable our pupils to achieve personal success. There is something magical that happens when our children come through the school gates. They support and encourage each other, showing our outstanding behaviour expectations (OBE) the majority of the time.

**David Fernley** - I am delighted to have been chosen as the staff representative on the board of governors as I am extremely passionate about our school community. I have been on the governing body of schools for over six years and it is a role that I believe is essential in a successful school. During my time as a teacher, I have taught in a number of schools across Sheffield and Wakefield, taking on a number of different roles. I am currently thoroughly enjoying my role as Y6 class teacher and subject leader of history, as part of the curriculum theme team. My passion is creating exciting and enjoyable learning opportunities for children as I believe children make the most progress when they are confident, happy and enjoying themselves.

**Emma Fox** - I am so pleased to have become a Governor, so thank you! As a mum with two children, one still enrolled at Athelstan, the other having recently moved on, I really wanted to be able to give back, and feel I have the time and dedication to do so. In September 2024, I was delighted to take up the role of Teaching Assistant at Athelstan, to the current Y5s. I'm really passionate about ensuring all children have the opportunity to succeed, not only academically, but as people, both now and in the future. I feel that being able to create engaging learning spaces, as well as having a voice in how the school is run, will help give our children the best chance to succeed. I look forward to helping our school community thrive.

**Richard Joel** - I have been a governor since December 2017 when at the time I had two children in school, both of whom have now moved on. Although I knew very little about the running of a school or the education sector in general, I felt like I could make a difference. Becoming a governor isn't something I had previously considered but it is rewarding to feel like you are making some small contribution to driving standards for our children and to the Athelstan community of which the school is such an intrinsic and vital part. My background is Finance and Operational Management for a Sheffield based manufacturer and worldwide distribution business so I quickly found a home on the Compliance Committee which is responsible for many of the financial and business aspects of running a school with over 600 pupils on site. It is our job as Governors to be a "critical friend" to the school, supporting and contributing our own experience but with the ability to challenge and hold leaders to account with an impartial view.

**Rochelle Kirk** - I am a mum to three boys, all of whom are now either at secondary school or in the world of work. Each of them spent their primary education at Athelstan. It was during my youngest child's final years here that I joined the governing body. Since joining, I have seen the school continue to grow and strengthen, not only in its delivery of education, but as a school community. My passion and skills lie within early education and how this lays foundation blocks for children to continue to achieve their full potential as they move through the school. Safeguarding and SEND are my other strengths that I bring to this role, to which I am safe in the knowledge that team Athelstan have the same outlook when it comes to these areas, that all children should feel safe, secure and included. I look forward to continuing to support and work alongside the school.

**Lisa Watson** - I joined Athelstan Primary School in September 2013, having already worked as a Deputy Headteacher in London for two years. My role here involves a number of different areas but I am particularly involved with the teaching of Read Write Inc Phonics in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. I am passionate about phonics and early reading and love the fact that I am able to work daily with teachers, teaching assistants and pupils in a number of different classes. I also work very closely with Sheffield Hallam University and their students during their time with us, and act as mentor to all of our early career teachers (ECTs). I lead Extended Services at Athelstan, which includes School Streets, Breakfast Club, all lunchtime and after-school clubs and the many sporting festivals, tournaments and competitions which our children take part in. This also involves monitoring the impact of the Sports'

Premium Funding. I enjoy being part of such a committed Governing Body and know that all of us will continue to work closely together to ensure that our children get the best possible education.

**Nicola Wilson** - I became an Associate Governor at Athelstan Primary School in January 2018. I am on the Compliance Committee and feel like I can offer a lot of support, guidance and passion to the school. I was an Athelstan pupil myself (many years ago!) I have two children who also both attended Athelstan and are in secondary school now. My background has mostly been in business, having owned and run my own business for 8 years in Cornwall and most recently been involved in creating, setting up and establishing 2 separate multi-site leisure businesses with a combined annual turnover of over £6million. I believe my experience within the workplace so far can be transferable to helping Athelstan to continue being an amazing school for our children to grow, learn and be successful in whatever they choose to do. I am very passionate about emotional health and wellbeing for children and I am particularly interested in assisting with the creation of a positive mental health and wellbeing culture in Athelstan.

**James Mills** - I have been at Athelstan for over twelve years and have taught across KS2. During my time at Athelstan, I have led year six, led writing, reading and maths, become a member of the Senior Leadership Team and became Assistant Headteacher in September 2018. I am passionate about all children achieving success and being given the best possible chance to do this. I have high aspirations and expectations for all children because I want them to leave us ready and confident to tackle secondary school.

**Iffat Yasmin** – I am a solicitor who has been practising family and immigration law for the past thirteen years. Having created safe environments for families and children by upholding safeguarding mechanisms, I have concluded that every child needs a comfortable family environment which would allow them to develop academically and physically. My ethos has always been that 'every child can achieve vast targets; they just achieve them in different timescales.' This belief has allowed me to assist children in securing constructive futures. Education is a right not a privilege and I'm honoured to be part of an establishment that works tirelessly to ensure this opportunity is accessible to every child.

**Anna Waring** - I joined Athelstan in 2024 as Assistant Headteacher for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. With over 20 years of experience in education, and having held a variety of leadership roles throughout my career, I remain committed to a core belief that children should always be at the heart of everything we do. I have a particular passion for the early years, where the foundations for lifelong learning and curiosity are first laid. I strongly believe in preserving the magic of childhood by nurturing awe and wonder, and by championing play-based, hands-on learning experiences that ignite children's natural desire to explore, imagine, and create. I have extensive experience in SEND, and I aim to support the school in creating rich, inclusive, and inspiring learning environments where all children can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Shabana Sharif** – I am so pleased to have been elected as a parent governor at Athelstan. My strong commitment to strengthening our school to grow is inspired by my three children, who have flourished because of the dedication and empowerment received from Athelstan staff. Now is the time for me to give back to the school and to our community. My background as an Occupational Therapist helps me to look at things holistically, with deep understanding, empathy and creativity. I also have a good understanding of SEND and am currently working as an Infant Feeding Support Worker with Sheffield Family Hubs; this will provide me with the flexibility and time to commit to my new role of governor, which I see as an investment in our children's learning, development and wellbeing.

**Jenny Buttery** – I feel very privileged to have been elected as one of two new parent governors at Athelstan Primary. I have been teaching English at a secondary school for over fifteen years and currently have responsibility for teaching and learning. I am committed to helping children to learn and grow and feel that my skills can easily cross over into supporting younger children at Athelstan and offering a different perspective. I firmly believe that play and imagination are an important part of child development and would like to support the school in ensuring all children reach their full potential. Being a mum and a teacher means that I can share parents' views and I can talk about our children's progress from both sides.