

Governor Pen Portraits

Mike Larsen

Mike joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School in January 2011 and is currently the Chair of Governors and an active participant of all Standing Committees.

Mike was a former pupil of the school himself and, more recently, both of his children have attended the school as pupils. Mike is an active member of the local community, where he has lived all of his life.

In addition, Mike works for the NHS as a Human Resources Manager, is a Trustee of a local charity and has a wealth of experience as a Non-Executive Director.

Jason Comber

Jason joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School in September 2013, initially as a Parent Governor and is now the Vice Chair of Governors and an enthusiastic member of all of the Standing Committees.

Jason is an avid supporter of the development of the potential of young people and is the Award Manager of a voluntary organisation involved in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wirral. Jason is a former Advanced Paramedic in the Cheshire and Mersey area and is now employed as a Senior Lecturer in Paramedic Science in a local University.

Zoe Carmichael

Zoe joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School in October 2016 as a Co-opted Governor when her daughter was a pupil at Overchurch Junior School. She is a participant of all of the Standing Committees and the Chair of Finance.

Zoe was the former Chair of Overchurch PTA and is still an active member of the fundraising committee. Her niece and nephew are both pupils of the school so although her daughter is now in high school, she enjoys the connection with Overchurch and the wonderful staff and Children.

Zoe lives in Upton and works for a local Housing Association as Head of Investment; planning, co-ordinating and ensuring delivery of multi million pound programmes of works to their properties. She finds her role in social housing rewarding and particularly enjoys the community involvement with residents and the positive impact of the works on their homes.

Jo Newman

Jo has been a Parent Governor since November 2018 is has a son in Year One and a daughter in this year's Nursery cohort.

Jo has a vast array of knowledge and experience in working with Primary, Secondary and Special Schools within Wirral in providing high quality physical activity and competitive sporting opportunities. Jo also works closely with PE specialists within primary schools to promote health and wellbeing initiatives and training opportunities for students and staff. Jo is looking forward to her new role as Parent Governor.

Matthew Elliott

Matt joined the governing body as a parent governor in 2019. He lives in Upton, has two children currently attending the school, comes from a family of teachers and is also a former pupil (from many years ago)!

Matt specialises in finance and works for several charities based in Liverpool. He has experience of being a governor at several other schools, along with more general governance experience as a trustee of a number of charities over recent years. He is keen to support the school in giving the best possible start to children in the community during their earliest years in education.

Julie Merry

Julie is married with two children, a daughter and a son, both now young adults. Her son has SEN, so Julie has experience of finding out how to meet his health and educational needs, from a very young age!

Julie started her career with 19 years in Banking. Following redundancy, she changed her career and moved into Education, working within all areas of Education including Private Pre-School, Primary, Secondary, Further Education and more recently Higher Education; undertaking a variety of roles ranging from nursery/teaching assistant, class teacher, adult tutor, vocational award assessor and verifier to senior lecturer delivering the National Senco Award.

Julie has also spent 9 years working for the Local Authority as Wirral Education's Safeguarding Lead. For the last two years, Julie has been employed part-time at Stanley Special School as a Safeguarding Manager and spends the rest of her time working as a self-employed Safeguarding Consultant, working with a number of Wirral Schools.

She has over 16 years' experience as a governor and is currently the Chair of Governors at Cathcart Street Primary and a co-opted governor at Kilgarth Special School. Julie has a particular interest in Safeguarding, SEN and Finance. Julie is excited to be part of our Governing Body and is looking forward to our next educational journey!

Alex Newman

Alex has recently joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School as a Staff Governor, having expressed a keen interest to support the work involved with the Governing Body.

He has taught at Overchurch since joining as Inclusion Leader in 2016; alongside teaching in Year 2. He has 5 years of experience as a SENCO and has recently taken on a role of Locality Board Chair for West Wirral; consulting with the Local Authority over important issues regarding SEND.

Throughout his time at Overchurch, he has led Computing; working closely with Hi-Impact to deliver exciting and awe-inspiring learning opportunities.

Both of his children attend Overchurch; adding to his desire to see the school move from strength to strength.

Sarah Malyj

Sarah has recently joined the Governing Body as a newly appointed Parent Governor; her son has also started in Reception.

Sarah has eight years' experience working in a local high school, teaching English and Drama across Key Stage three, four and five. More recently, Sarah has been appointed at the high school as the Key Stage three Co-ordinator in English and has developed her expertise in creating and delivering an excellent curriculum and leading staff to develop their own pedagogy.

Sarah is deeply invested in education and the development of all students' core life skills, such as literacy and reading ability.

Rebecca Nicholas

Becca has recently joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School in December 2021 as a Parent Governor. Becca has 2 children in school (Year 2 and Reception), and another pre-school child to hopefully enter the 2022 nursery intake.

Becca lives in Upton and works in the Countess of Chester Hospital as a Doctor of Paediatrics and Child Health. Her work role has an emphasis on the physical health of children, along with their emotional wellbeing, health promotion and safeguarding. She is also involved in the educational training and supervision of students and newly qualified doctors and is looking forward to participating in the Overchurch Infants Governing body as a new and exciting challenge.

Julie Kelly

Julie has joined the Governing Body at Overchurch Infant School as an LA (Local Authority) Governor. She is also a parent governor at Bidston Avenue Primary School. Julie currently works for the LA as a Locality Attendance Officer and Overchurch Infant School comes under her catchment area. Part of Julie's job is structured around Safeguarding and listening to the voice of the child. She is passionate about supporting families and signposting to relevant agencies that can assist with any issues that families may encounter.

Julie is married with two grown up children and one child who is still in Primary school. She is excited to be on this journey with Overchurch Infant School and will support the school to go from strength to strength.

Mark Hall

Mark joined the Governing Body in December 2021 as a Co-opted Governor.

Mark is a former Royal Marines Commando. Since leaving the Marines, Mark has managed the Health and Safety and Facility Management for a wide variety of corporate businesses. To date, Mark is the Head of Premises and Compliance for West Kirby Residential School and supports local schools with Facility Management and H&S advice.

Mark holds professional memberships with the Institute of Workplace & Facility Management (IWFM) and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).