

GOVERNING BOARD PROFILES

Ros Rochefort – Sponsor Governor and Chair of Governors

I have spent nearly 40 years working in education and have greatly enjoyed working with children and young people for even longer – I was first involved in voluntary youth work, aged 17. I taught in four different primary schools before becoming a Primary Headteacher, a role I enjoyed for 21 years, before my retirement. Having been a teacher, a staff governor and Headteacher, I can testify at first hand to the immense difference good governance can make, not only to the ethos, leadership and management of a school, but equally importantly to the lives of the individuals within a school community, whether Headteacher, staff or pupils. Throughout my career, I hugely benefited from some wonderfully supportive governors.

For me, the role of being a Governor at Aylesbury Vale Academy brings exciting new opportunities to use some of my experience in a voluntary capacity and to work within an educational setting in a different context. At last, too, I have time - a great luxury after so many years of full-time work. I am keen to support the school and its leadership, working together as a team to provide all the children and young people at AVA with a first class education.

Jackie Bowers – Sponsor Governor and Vice Chair

I have over twenty years' experience in HR management. My knowledge and skills have been developed during an extensive career within market leading companies spanning a variety of economic sectors including retail, manufacturing and technology. My experience has been underpinned by a professional qualification and membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (MCIPD).

I was born in Buckinghamshire and have been through the County's education system. I have lived in Aylesbury since 1992 and have worked for many companies in the town. I am very familiar with the area and the challenges and opportunities it provides. I am passionate about ensuring young people have the best opportunities to develop themselves to their full potential. I believe all school leavers should be equipped not only academically and socially but also to make a significant contribution to their community and future employers.

Ruth Bennie – Sponsor Governor

I am a School Link Adviser for the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, a role that affords me the privilege of working with many schools across the diocese; in this role, I am also the strategic lead for governance. Prior to this, I worked in middle and primary education for nearly thirty years in a number of schools in Northamptonshire, Tower Hamlets, Leicester, Wokingham and Oxfordshire. I was Headteacher for ten years at a large community primary school in Oxfordshire.

I am a passionate believer in the importance, power and fun of education, and have continued learning myself throughout my career. In 2018, I received my MProf from the University of Chester having completed modules focusing on key areas of interest including practice based research, safeguarding, pupil premium, and creativity as a therapeutic practice.

Graham Dougall – Local Authority Governor

I took a 1st degree in Psychology, and then spent my working life as a Human Resources Director working for Ford, Parker Hannifin and Honeywell in Europe, North and South America and Asia. I took early retirement, and retrained as a Sports Psychologist taking a Master's Degree at Brunel University. I then spent 10 years working with 16-18 year old boys trying to make it as professional footballers at a Premier League club (and how to become multi-millionaires!). My main emphasis was helping coaches understand how best the boys learn and the most appropriate teaching style. A lot of time was spent with helping those who were not going to achieve their goals as footballers, but had lots to offer in other fields.

I have been a Governor since 2017, and have special responsibilities for Sports Premium and Communication. It has been a tremendous time of achievement for AVA, and I look forward to helping continue the progress already made. In my 3 years I have learnt a tremendous amount working with a group of outstanding staff and fellow governors and been stimulated by the students desire to learn and improve.

Charlotte James – Parent Governor

As a parent of two children in the primary phase, the AVA plays a significant role in the education of my children and will do for years to come. As we all do, I want my children to have access to the best education possible and I am pleased to have the opportunity to play a part in developing the provision through the role of parent governor.

I trained as a teacher over 15 years ago and have worked with children across the primary phase, specialising in supporting children with special needs and teaching in the Early Years. Prior to moving to Aylesbury, I enjoyed 9 years as the SENCO of a large school in Swindon, watching it grow within a new housing estate (similar to Berryfields), developing its provision to the level of 'outstanding' before relocating to enjoy a new challenge in Buckinghamshire. I currently support Early Years settings in Buckinghamshire through my role as EY SEND Advisor for Bucks CC, helping school to meet the needs of children with SEND. I am based in the Aylesbury area and work directly with local nurseries and schools often supporting families within the community. I also have experience of delivering educational training (with specialisms in Autism and Behaviour), mentoring teachers, supporting parents and working with other professional bodies.

Coming from a family of teachers, I hope to offer a balanced understanding of what we as parents hope for our children's education alongside the needs of the school and its staff.

Robin Scott – Sponsor Governor

I am a retired Senior Educational Psychologist. I know about legislation to do with Education and have expertise in SEND. I have worked in a range of educational settings with children and young people from 0 to 25 years and their families. Previously I have been Headteacher of a large Primary School with a Nursery and then a Middle School. As Headteacher, I was part of the governing body of these schools. I have experience in school Finance including budget setting and monitoring, Personnel including recruitment, Curriculum Development, Development Planning for the school, Safeguarding children and young people, Risk Assessment, Health and Safety, and Performance Management. I am familiar with both capability procedure and legislation and practice around school exclusions. I have supported staff through a restructuring process. My first teaching role was in an inner city multi-cultural primary school in Nottingham. After being a class teacher, I trained as an English as a Second Language teacher. I am therefore keen in promoting success in a diverse school community.

I like children and young people, and see school as a vital part of their development. Good governance can contribute to a successful school by providing checks and balances that ensure the school functions well. I am keen to use my experience and skills within my local community in a voluntary capacity. I have energy, and like working as part of a team. I have good interpersonal skills, and I am comfortable in a range of social situations. I am a Christian, and am currently doing a second stint as churchwarden.

Robin Wallhouse – Sponsor Governor

I have spent my entire working life as an accountant, in industry and commerce but mainly in private practice, either in partnership or latterly on my own. I have worked mostly in the UK but with brief spells in South Africa and the Channel Isles. I am now retired and recently moved to Berryfields. I am married to Chrissie and we are both committed Christians and members of Church on Berryfields. I see my appointment as a governor to the schools, both as a challenge and an opportunity to serve in the local community.

Sally Waugh – Sponsor Governor

For most of my working life, I have been involved with training or education in some form and I have experience of teaching at primary, secondary and university levels. I have always been interested in how people learn things, and trying to enable students (children and adults) to find ways of learning which give them access to new fields of study, or to new opportunities in the work place. Before moving to Aylesbury I particularly enjoyed 15 years as a lead teacher and mentor in a special needs department helping students work towards GCSE and A level grades that they had previously thought would be beyond their expectations.

I am currently an advisor for creating teaching and learning schemes for schools and universities. At the moment I specialise in preparing students for the transition between school and university. I work on several projects which provide guidance and study materials to help students (at school and university) to prepare for new courses so that they extract the maximum from their studies.

My motivation to help people tackle difficulties and find ways through their problems comes from my Christian faith. My concern is that every individual should have the opportunity to achieve, and to become the very best that they can be, and to feel happy and fulfilled by that. In my time at AVA, I hope that I will contribute to all members of the AVA community feeling encouraged and supported in working towards being the best that they can be.