

Lew Trenchard & St Catherine's- Meet the Governors



Louise Hussey (Executive Head Teacher)

I was born in London but grew up in Cornwall from the age of 5. I gained a First Class BEd (Hons) in Maths from Exeter University and then taught and lived in Plymouth for 8 years, marrying and having my first child before moving to Manchester (my husband's home town). There I had 2 more children and carried on teaching part time for 6 years before deciding to return to bring up our family in Cornwall. I now live just outside Bude where I enjoy coastal walks with my children and dogs and have just taken up gig rowing. After working locally as an assistant head and completing my Headteacher qualification, I was thrilled to be able to join St Catherine's last year as Head of School where my passion for teaching is directed daily to the challenges of ensuring high quality, inspiring education for every one of our wonderful pupils.



Naomi Smith (Co-opted Governor)

I was born on a ship just off Genoa in the Mediterranean before coming to the UK and adopted at 6 weeks. I grew up in a large family in Farnham, Surrey. My mother (an English teacher) was an emergency foster parent and ended up adopting 7 of us. I left home at 16 to study Maritime Radio and Radar Electronics- a Merchant Navy Radio Officer qualification. I stayed ashore due to my mother's cancer.

I joined Her Majesty's Coastguard in 1999 in Brixham Devon after 1 year's training and 4 years' service. I realised how much I loved the job; it really suited me. I have since transferred to New Zealand for 2 years' service, Bermuda for 1 year and finally Australia for 4 years. The advance in technology over the years is fascinating.

My 2 children live in Hampshire and from them I have 3 delightful young grandchildren.

I wish every child to be able to dabble in science, think about adventure and flourish in their own way and I think some of my experiences can help them.



Emma Bending (Co-opted Governor)

Hello, my name is Emma Bending and I am really pleased to be part of the St Catherine's family as a Governor. I was born and brought up in North Devon before moving away to University and embarking on a teaching career in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. I returned to the county 7 years ago with my husband Joe and we have our lovely Labrador Merlin. Whilst in education I had a particular interest in Literacy and Additional Special Needs and continue this interest in my Governor role. I love the outdoors and gardening. We live in a beautiful part of the country and I love to explore both coast and countryside.



Natalie Pankhurst (Parent Governor)

Originally from Kent, we made the move to Cornwall in 2015; moving to Launceston 3 years ago. I continued my secondary teaching profession in Bude up until April of last year, retiring after nearly 19 years, to follow my passion for working in the outdoors with animals.

My son attends St Catherine's and seeing him thrive & transition from Nursery care into the main school with such confidence & determination is a sign of how happy he is here. Students, staff and support staff are a credit to the ethos of the school and it only felt natural to want to be a part of that. As a parent governor I hope to be able to share my experiences not only within education but as a parent of a child in the school and work together to support all those along the way.



Sally Powell (Staff Governor)

Hello. I am Sally, currently a year 5 teacher at St Catherine's and I have previously taught in both Year 2 and Year 4 here. Before coming to St Catherine's, I worked in a small Primary School in Devon and experienced teaching in mixed year groups. I was lucky to be able to teach all year groups at one time or another, from Reception to Year 6 and I can honestly say I have loved them all! Teaching is so much more than a job for me, it is a privilege and a passion and a profession I am proud to be part of.

Before coming to teaching, I worked in Manchester managing care contracts for the Local Authority. Just over ten years ago I started my teaching career in Early Years and initially qualified as an Early Years Professional before completing my Primary Teacher Training. I love the challenge of supporting students and families in so many different ways, and seeing a child develop their confidence and self-belief is the greatest reward of all. I believe that a young person's emotional well-being is the key to reaching their potential and aim to make this a key priority in my classroom.

As a Governor, I will be committed to school development and in doing so hope to help to secure the best education and school experience possible for our very valuable young people and their families.



Amy Crompton (Parent Governor & Chair of Governors)

I'm Amy but a lot of you know me as Daisy's Mum. I'm currently your Chair of Governors and my specific roles include safeguarding, whistleblowing and personnel. I'm very passionate about our school and feel very privileged to be a part of our thriving school family. I am married to Mark and have three children: Josh, Oliver and Daisy. I love walking and gardening, and I especially enjoy being at the beach with my family.



Joy McSmythurs (Foundation Governor)

I am the one on the right!

I trained as a Chartered Surveyor and became an Investment Banker working in London and the Middle East.

In 2018 my husband and I moved to Devon when, for health reasons, I retired early. I live at Marystow about 10 minutes from Lewtrenchard. I first visited Lew Trenchard C of E School because I joined the local Open the Book team who visit the school telling Bible stories. I fell in love with the school, it's ethos, the energy and love generated by Liz and her fabulous colleagues. So, when the opportunity came to apply to be a Governor, I was very keen.



Martin Hampton (Parent Governor)

Hi, I grew up in Somerset, then went to University in London to study Architecture at UCL. I started a film production company called Squint Opera and worked in London for over fifteen years. I would often escape to the West Country to surf at Croyde and walk on Dartmoor. In 2012 my wife Léonie and I jumped at the opportunity to live on the Lewtrenchard Estate, renting the rambling Dower House, where our two children Mia and Kestor have grown up, and I seem to have spent a lot of time keeping nature at bay in the garden. Léonie and I now work together making socially engaged art projects as "Still Moving CIC". I am committed to the role of creativity in education and life and hope to be able to bring my experiences in the creative industries to the Parent Governor role.

Rev. Michael Dobson (Foundation Governor)