Governor pen portraits 2026-2027

Steve Bassett

Appointed: August 2026 Co-opted Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Finance & Estates, Co - Vice Chair of Governors

Business or pecuniary interests: None

Material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships: Steve's wife Charlotte Bassett is employed as a teaching assistant at the school.

Steve Bassett has been a Governor at Ospringe for fourteen years and currently serves as Vice-Chair of Finance and Estates and is our Joint Vice-Chair of Governors.

Steve is a senior police officer and has served in many different roles, predominantly in uniform. He is a Public Order and CBRN Commander and Advisor and a Tactical Firearms Commander. He has experience of policing all over the country, including the 2011 London Riots, the Olympic Games, various high- profile football matches and protests. He has led specialist officers at a multitude of policing operations, including being a Commander at the COP26 Conference in Glasgow, as well as at the State Funeral of the Late Queen and also the recent installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Prior to joining Kent Police, Steve graduated from the University of Kent with a degree in British Constitutional Politics.

As well as being a Tottenham Hotspur supporter, Steve coaches his daughter's football team. Steve is married with two daughters (both having spent their primary education here) and a black Labrador.

Nicola Batey

Appointed: June 2025 Foundation Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Pupil progress, Pastoral, HT appraisal

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Nicola has lived in Faversham since 1991. She has taught in primary schools for over 30 years. Both her sons spent happy years at Ospringe school.

Nicola has for many years been an active member of the congregation at Ospringe church. She actively supports the GEM 72 initiative.

In her spare time, Nicola enjoys creating fused glass art, cycling, gardening and being taken for walks by the family dog!

Lucy Elias

Appointed: November 2024 Parent Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Pastoral & Teaching & Learning. Eco Governor

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Lucy is a parent governor whose daughter is in year 3.

Lucy completed her MSc in Developmental Psychology in 2013 and since then has worked in mental health and neurodevelopmental assessment services. Lucy is currently a head of clinical systems for a local service undertaking neurodevelopmental assessment, treatment and wellbeing support across the lifespan.

Asides from managing a team, she is committed to developing service provision to support the wellbeing of individuals and their families.

Lucy is interested in student wellbeing and pastoral support and is keen to contribute her experience and knowledge to this role.

Away from the above, Lucy enjoys spending time with close family and friends. She loves all Faversham has to offer, in particular the strong community spirit.

Charles Gibson

Appointed: January 2026 Foundation Governor

Term of Office: no end date

Committees: Pastoral

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Charles is a local Councillor on Faversham Town and Swale Borough Councils. He also works for a local military charity. He comes from a family of teachers and was previously a Governor for six years at another school. In his spare time, he plays in a brass band, and enjoy swimming and walking in the local area.

Kitty Healy

Appointed: September 2025 Parent Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Pupil progress, Teaching and learning

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

As a parent of a Reception-aged daughter, I am delighted to serve as a Parent Governor and support the continued success of our school community. I have worked in primary education for nearly twenty years as both a teacher and a leader, and I am currently part of the senior leadership team in my own school. I also bring previous experience as a school governor, which has given me a strong understanding of the responsibilities, strategic thinking, and collaborative approach the role requires.

My professional passion lies firmly in early years education, where I believe that strong foundations—particularly in early reading and phonics—are essential in helping children flourish. I have a particular interest in pupil attainment and progress, especially for our most vulnerable learners, and I am deeply committed to championing SEND and inclusion. Ensuring that every child feels valued, supported, and able to succeed is at the heart of my educational philosophy.

Five years ago, my family and I moved from Canterbury to Faversham, and we have loved becoming part of its wonderful community. The town's charm, warmth, and vibrant calendar of events make it a truly special place to call home.

Outside of school life, I enjoy spending time creating memories with my young family, as well as reading and keeping active. These passions help keep me motivated and ready to bring my experience and enthusiasm to the role of Parent Governor.

Harry Harnett

Appointed: September 2026 Staff Governor

Term of Office: 4 Years

Committees: Pupil Progress

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Harry has worked as a Teaching Assistant at Ospringe Primary School since September 2024. Now in his third academic year, he has enrolled in a Primary Education degree apprenticeship at Canterbury Christ Church University to become a qualified teacher.

Harry is passionate about sport, having led both boys' and girls' football clubs and teaching PE across the school.

Harry is committed to helping create a safe, positive, and inclusive school environment where staff, pupils, and the wider community work together.

Outside school, Harry enjoys playing Sunday League football and golf, spending time with family in Herne Bay, watching local football and listening to live music.

John Higgs

Appointed: June 2026 Parent Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Finance & Estates committee & Health and safety governor.

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

John Higgs has lived in Faversham since 2012 and has two daughters who attend the school in years 6 and 2.

Previously, he worked as a Senior Physiotherapist in the NHS, but traded his career to support his wife's veterinary business as an administrator on a part-time basis, whilst spending the rest of the time looking after his daughters. Now that both the girls are in full-time education John has taken on the role of Practice manager within the veterinary practice.

John has a passion for woodwork and DIY and over the last few years has become an influencer through sharing his hobby on social media and YouTube as a content creator.

Outside of his work and hobby, John enjoys outdoor pursuits and is focused on improving his fitness through Karate training where he is currently training to become a Sensei.

John is also an active member of Barton Church and serves the church in a number of areas.

Barry Hostead

Appointed: May 2025 Co-opted Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Finance & Estates Co - Vice Chair of Governors. Website compliance Governor.

Business or pecuniary interests: None

Barry Hostead joined the Governing Board as a Parent Governor in 2014 and has since become a Co-opted Governor. During his time on the Governing Board, Barry has assumed various positions including; Online Safety Governor, Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance and Estates Committee and is currently Chair of the Finance Committee and Joint Vice-Chair of the Governing Board.

Barry works for Howden Insurance as Group Director of Data Products and Platforms. Barry brings a deep knowledge of technology and transformation to the governing Board with a key focus on data, analytics and AI. Barry also holds the position of Trustee of the Board of Mid Kent Mind joining in June 2024.

Barry lives in Faversham with his wife and 2 boys, both of which attended the school and loved the nurturing environment the school provides.

Justin Lovell

Appointed: December 2026 LA Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Finance & Estates & Pupil progress. Chair of Governors. Headteacher appraisal. Pupil premium governor.

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Justin has been a governor at Ospringe since 2009 and is our current Chair of Governors.

Justin works in the UK Financial Services Industry, in the Insurance Brokering sector, with 30 years' experience in senior compliance and risk management roles.

Areas of expertise, supporting him in his role of governor, include leadership, strategy, finance, policy management, regulatory/legal compliance and risk management.

Justin is married and a father of two grown up daughters, both who were previously Ospringe pupils. He enjoys the local countryside and its rich history and is particularly fond of live music.

Sally McCourt

Appointed: September 2023 Co-opted Governor

Term of Office: 4 Years

Committees: Pupil progress, SEND Governor

Business or pecuniary interests: Sally occasionally has provided supply cover at school in the past. She is now a retired teacher.

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Sally McCourt is a retired teacher, and our Governor responsible for SEND. She was a teacher in primary education from 1999 until 2019 in Thanet and Rural Swale schools. Sally was a class teacher and member of the senior leadership team here at Ospringe CE Primary School; joining in 2009 and teaching across both KS1 and KS2 classrooms. As an Assistant Headteacher, her responsibilities included that of a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Key Stage Leader, and Subject Leader across many curriculum subjects; Art, Design Technology, History & Geography and PE to name a few. Over the years she has gained a very good understanding of the needs of our whole school community, and her experiences in Thanet schools has broadened her understanding further. Sally is very proud of the time she has worked at Ospringe CE Primary School, and believes the Christian ethos the school provides is most rewarding for pupils, families and all the staff team. She is very happy to be continuing her work today as a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Governor.

As a Governor Sally is able to share her knowledge, skills and experiences with staff and families in the community with a view to supporting all in the education environment. She feels very proud of the achievements for all in the school community; the outstanding skills of the classroom teaching teams who nurture and support our young children as they learn in our school. She is especially proud of the strengths of our senior leadership team, and believes that the Christian Ethos the school encompasses through its curriculum is an important aspect of the support our children and families access here. Sally's own children are all fully fledged adults,

and today are parents themselves. She spends her time engaging in sports activities at home and supporting and visiting her family both in the UK and USA. Like many grandparents, Sally often shares the responsibilities of childcare for her grandchildren; taking them to and from nursery/school environments as well as enjoying their company as they learn through play activities both at home and in the community.

Carly McLean

Appointed: November 2023 Parent Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Teaching & Learning & Pupil progress

Business or pecuniary interests: Teacher at a local secondary school

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Carly is a parent governor who has two children at Ospringe. Carly is a local secondary school teacher of 17 years, who trained in Ontario, before moving to work in the UK in 2009. Carly teaches English and has a focus on curriculum development and Literacy. Her literacy focused work has involved targeting students for phonic support at the secondary level. More recently, Carly has been exploring mixed ability educational settings and their benefits for students.

Carly has a keen interest in SEN education and with a background in Outdoor Education, she is interested in how we can create culturally enriching experiences for students, allowing them to explore the world around them.

When relaxing, Carly enjoys walks with her family, lake swims and canoeing and, being an English teacher, loves to read.

Sue Shepherd

Appointed: September 2026 Co-opted Governor

Term of Office: 4 years

Committees: Pastoral, pupil progress. Safeguarding Governor

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Sue has been involved with Ospringe school since she first became a pupil here in the 1960’s. She has maintained links with the school through her mother who worked

in the school and other family members, helping in various fundraising activities and social functions. Sue's four children attended the school and now her two grandchildren are continuing the tradition.

She has been a Governor since 2009. Sue is regularly in school helping wherever needed from providing additional reading opportunities for children and involvement in the school plays and productions, both backstage and with the props, to driving the minibus for trips out.

Sue works as the Welfare officer at the Faversham Gym club and as an assistant specifically in the pre-school gymnastics classes. She is also a qualified youth worker with over thirty-five years' experience. Sue has an interest in the art of prop making and is the Treasurer of the Up the Creek Pantomime society.

Rocyn Williams

Appointed: Foundation Governor

Term of Office: 4 Years

Committees: Pastoral & Finance & Estates. Training & Development Governor.

Business or pecuniary interests: None

No material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships.

Rocyn is a Foundation Governor appointed by the Diocese of Canterbury. He has held Governor roles since May 2017. Born in Swansea, in the last century, he attended a small county school on the Gower peninsula. He graduated for the University of Wales, Cardiff, in Applied Science.

The majority of his career was spent based in Belgium working around the world. He ended up heading a worldwide team selling light sources for specialised applications. He specialised in organisation process improvement, budget management and organisation evolution. Along the way he collected a working knowledge of several foreign languages.

A role swap with his wife Sarah in 2003 led him to work as a consultant with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on specialist projects in Poland and Russia.

They returned to the UK in 2003 when Sarah became a priest in the Church of England. His experience convinces him that smaller schools can deliver quality education and also that children should be actively encouraged to be comfortable with Science and Foreign Languages.

As a regular member of Ospringe Parish Church, the links between the parish church and school are also important to him. Rocyn is also linked to the school's Opal play programme.

Cheryl Winton

Appointed: August 2026 Co-opted Governor

Term of Office: 4 Years

Committees: Teaching & Learning, Headteacher appraisal

Business or pecuniary interests: Cheryl is co-owner of Teddies pre-school which is located on the school site.

Material interests arising from intra-governor or staff relationships: Cheryl's daughter Adele Winton works in the school office

Cheryl Winton has been a Governor at Ospringe for 27 years joining as a Parent Governor and is now a Co-opted Governor. Cheryl is co-owner of Teddies preschool and has worked there for the last 22 years and so is very knowledgeable regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage which is also used in reception.

Cheryl has a long association with Ospringe school with all five of her children going through the school.

Cheryl spends most of her spare time with her children and many grandchildren who keep her very busy.