Ickleford Primary School
Shared Values · Shared Aspirations · Shared Achievements

Meet our Governors

Name and contact details	Category	Biography
Chris Barker chris.barker@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Co-opted	I am a co-opted governor at the school, and I joined the Governing Board in September 2014. I am enjoying my role working with governors and being part of the school community. I lived in Ickleford for 20 years and all 4 of my children attended the school. I have taught in Beds and Herts for most of my career (KS1 age group) and I am now semi-retired. I work part time as a senior mentor assessor with PGCE trainees. *My favourite music artist is Bruce Springsteen.*
Jessica Beesen-Smith officeadmin@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Associate	I joined the staff team at Ickleford Primary School in September 2023 as Deputy Headteacher and Year 3 Teacher. Having spent my childhood in Hitchin, I worked in Islington for 16 years as a class teacher, then Deputy Headteacher and returned to the local area in 2017. I completed my masters in Curriculum Pedagogy and Assessment at the Institute of Education in 2015. At Ickleford, I will also be leading on the subjects of PSHE and RSE and History. *My favourite music artists are The Rolling Stones and Elton John.*
Liz Bundy liz.bundy@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Diocesan	I have been a governor since 2017. I have lived in the village since 1989 and our now-adult sons attended Ickleford Primary School. I was an assistant leader at Ickleford Playgroup, a member of the PTA, a member of the Village Hall Committee and served on St Katharine's Parochial Church Council before returning to paid employment in 1998. I was a pension administrator

		in a local pension company before becoming 'economically inactive'. During my periods of 'inactivity' I welcome opportunities to relax with a bacon sandwich and ginger ice cream. I love visiting museums. *My favourite music artist is Graham Kendrick.*
David Bunker david.bunker@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Diocesan	I was initially appointed as a Foundation Governor by the Diocese in January 2020. I have lived in Ickleford since 2012 and my children attended Ickleford School. I am a partner in a firm of solicitors in London. I am a member of the congregation at St Katharine's Church and chairman of The Friends of St Katharine's. I enjoy rugby and cricket and running with my dog Lula on the footpaths around the village. *My favourite music artists are The Killers.*
Mary Fane de Salis mary.salis@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Diocesan	I have been the Rector for the Holwell, Ickleford and Pirton Benefice since 2017 and am an ex-officio governor for Ickleford Primary School. I enjoy coming in regularly to lead collective worship at the school and welcoming classes into St Katharine's church for worship and learning. I work with Rev'd Margaret, as well as the Deputy and Head teachers, to ensure a faith-based presence at the school. Before training to be a priest, I studied at York for a degree in History of Art followed by chaplaincy work on the North East rail network and at an oil rig off the Scottish coast. I live in Pirton with my husband and our daughter and in my spare time I enjoy running and dress making. *My favourite music artists are Iron Maiden.*
Maciej Hermanowicz maciej.t.hermanowicz@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Parent	I was elected to the board of governors in March 2025. I am a proud dad to two lovely girls - my older one is currently a KS1 pupil with the school. I moved to Hitchin in 2016, working as a Data Scientist, AI/Machine Learning engineer and Senior Product Manager in the pharmaceutical sector. I will lean on this decade of Tech experience in my role as Computing link

		governor, supporting the school on topics like cloud migration, cybersecurity, and AI policy. In my free time you will find me playing modern board games or smashing away on the squash court. *My favourite music artist is Jacek Kaczmarski.*
Margaret Holford Icknield House, Westmill Lane, Ickleford SG5 3RN	Associate	I was appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education Foundation in September 2008, and am currently an associate governor. *My favourite music artist is Mozart.*
Kim King officeadmin@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Staff	I joined the staff at Ickleford Primary School in September 2015 as Year 6 teacher and I currently lead Science. Previously, I have taught in a number of settings within the local community and have also been an active teacher member of a North Hertfordshire based project in 2001 -2003, known as 'Minority Ethnic Curriculum Support Services' where I supported a number of pupils across three local schools, both primary and secondary. *My favourite music artists are a number of gospel artists such as Kirk Franklin and I enjoy R&B music.*
Gillian Lawton gillian.lawton@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Co-opted	I am a co-opted Governor, my initial term of appointment having commenced in January 2020. I feel passionate about making a positive contribution to the school for the benefit and wellbeing of all of its pupils. My eldest son attends Ickleford Primary School and is really enjoying his start to primary education! We have lived in the local community for 9 years, and feel very lucky to be able to walk across the local bridle paths to and from school, when the weather permits! My youngest boy is currently attending a local nursery. I work as a lawyer for a bank in the City of London, and in my spare time I enjoy keeping fit, singing in a Luton-based ladies' choir, walking my dog, and cooking. *My favourite music artists are Def Leppard.*

Miles Maxwell (Chair) miles.maxwell@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Local Authority	I have been a member of the Governing Board since 2005, and am currently the governor appointed by the Local Authority. I was Chair of the Governing Board from 2011 until 2017, and was reappointed to that role in 2019. A bit about me: I have lived in Ickleford since 1996, and both my now-adult daughters attended Ickleford Primary School. Prior to retirement, I worked in Pharma R&D for GSK and AstraZeneca. In my spare time I'm a keen cyclist – look out for the blur on Arlesey Road ... *My favourite music artist is Kate Bush.*
James Mendis Jmendis@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Parent	I was delighted to join the Governing Board in March 2026 as a Parent Governor. Our family became part of the Ickleford Primary community when our children joined the school in September 2025, and it has been a joy to support the place where they are growing and thriving. As a parent, and as someone deeply committed to creating safe and nurturing environments for young people, I feel privileged to contribute to the school's vision and long-term development. My Christian faith is an important part of my life and shapes the way I lead, serve, and support others. I am passionate about helping to build strong, inclusive spaces where every child can flourish. Outside of work, I enjoy walking, keeping active at the gym and spending time with my family *My favourite music artists are U2.*
Richard Murrell richard.murrell@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Parent	I was elected to the board of governors in 2023, as a parent to two daughters attending the school. My previous experience includes working with Herts Fire and Rescue Service, but predominantly in the construction industry, as a building control surveyor. Outside of work, I enjoy playing (and following) golf, cricket, tennis and table tennis. *My favourite music artists are Queen.*

Tobi Olujinmi (Vice Chair) tobi.olujinmi@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Co-opted	I was delighted to be elected to the governing board, as a co-opt governor in December 2021. I have two children, one who currently attends Ickleford Primary School and the other who is eagerly waiting to join her brother soon. A qualified Attorney, I now work as an Exec Producer across broadcast media making TV, Film, Radio and Podcasts. My work allows me to meet people from different backgrounds, and with varied experiences with the intention bringing unheard stories centre stage. When I'm not doing all of that, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, or watching a brilliant movie that I wish I produced. *My favourite music artist is Lauryn Hill.*
Neil Osmond (Vice Chair) neil.osmond@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Co-opted	I joined the Governing Board in 2021 and I am a proud Dad of 3 children who have enjoyed and grown through their experiences at Ickleford School. Whilst two have moved on to the Priory School, one is still benefitting from his time at the school. I have lived in Ickleford since 2002. I am the CEO of a small, local digital agency but have previously had roles in large pharmaceutical companies in finance, HR and commercial functions. When I am not working, or with the family, I enjoy playing hockey for Letchworth Hockey Club, cycling and have been involved in voluntary youth work for around 25 years. *My favourite music artist is Billy Joel.*
Liz Skinner Elizabeth.Skinner@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Parent	I was co-opted to the governing board in 2025 to fill a vacant parent governor position. I am the mother of 2 children who are currently thriving at Ickleford Primary School. We have lived in Ickleford since 2016 and I have worked as a GP in the local area for over 10 years. Amongst other varied roles my current joy is running our postnatal check clinic for mums and babies. I have many passions outside work including music, baking, fitness and our family allotment. *My favourite music artist is Billie Eilish.*

Shirley Williams shirley.williams@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Co-opted	I joined the Governing Board in December 2012. I enjoy working with the governors and being part of the school community. I have lived in Ickleford since 1980, and both my sons attended the school. I am a member of various village organisations, including the Parochial Church Council. I have taught in Special Education for most of my career, and still do supply teaching in a local special school. *My favourite music artist is Cleo Laine.*
Sarah Wright head@ickleford.herts.sch.uk	Head teacher	For over 15 years, I have held a variety of roles, including deputy headteacher, as well as teaching Reception, Year 5 and Year 3 at Ickleford Primary School. I was delighted to be appointed, by the Governing Board to the role of headteacher in September 2023. As an *ex-offico* governor, I report to the governing board on matters regarding pupil data, staffing, finances and site as well as implementing the vision, ethos and strategic direction the Governing Board has agreed to. *My favourite music artists are The Killers.*

There are different categories of governor, but all governors have an equal voice. The school's links with the Church of England are reflected in the three governors appointed by the Diocese.

(June 2026)