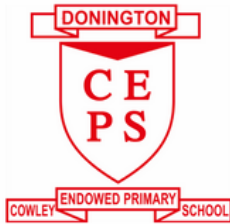


# The Horizon Schools Federation

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Established 26th February 2025

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The governing body is a group of dedicated individuals, including parents, staff, and community members, who work together to ensure our federation provides the best education for our children. Their key responsibilities include:

**Setting the Vision:** Establishing the long-term goals and direction for the school.

**Ensuring Accountability:** Monitoring the school's performance and holding leadership accountable.

**Financial Oversight:** Approving the budget and ensuring resources are used efficiently.

**Policy Development:** Creating and reviewing policies to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

**Supporting Staff:** Providing guidance and support to the headteacher and staff.

**Community Engagement:** Building strong relationships with parents and the community.



Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School



St Gilbert of Sempringham C of E Primary School

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# Meet our Governing Board

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**Mr Rob Cole**  
Chair of Governors  
LA Governor

I have been a school governor for over 12 years and a trustee of the Cowley Foundation. I have a wealth of experience in public service and have dedicated over 25 years working with children, families, communities and schools. I recognise the important role of governance, and champion the federation's commitment to fostering a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all.



**Mr Matt Timings**  
Co-Chair of Governors  
Foundation Governor

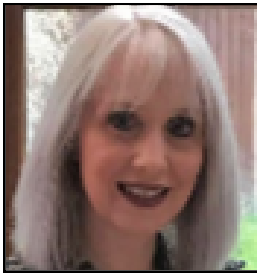
As a school governor, I have the privilege of working alongside dedicated and passionate individuals who share a common goal: to ensure that every student thrives in a nurturing and inspiring environment. I am excited to contribute my skills and experiences to help shape the future of our schools and to foster a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and innovation.



**Mrs Jane King**  
Vice Chair of Governors  
Foundation Governor

I have been a school governor for several years and I am also a governor at Cowley Academy as well as a County, District and Parish councillor. I absolutely love animals and as well as having my own, I am known around the village of Donington to be someone who will always help an animal in need. I have a busy schedule but when I get the chance, I enjoy taking the time to sit with a good cup of coffee!

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**Mrs Sophie Foston**  
Executive Head Teacher

Since September 2023, our schools have worked in partnership and I am proud to be Executive Headteacher of the Horizon Schools Federation. I am committed to ensuring the highest quality education for all pupils of Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School, where I have served as Headteacher since January 2022 and St Gilbert of Sempringham C of E Primary school. My fundamental aim is to inspire a love of learning, encouraging all children to achieve their potential and become the best versions of themselves, within our inclusive and caring school environments.

I have worked in schools across Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire and have held varied teaching and leadership posts. Throughout my teaching career I have demonstrated a strong commitment to my own professional development through completion of National Professional Qualifications in Senior Leadership, Headship and Executive Leadership and Masters accreditation in SEND Co-ordination.

Away from school, I have three incredible children, who are all now grown up!! I live with my husband, sons and Arlo our family dog, who is a regular visitor to Donington school. We enjoy long walks and exploring with Arlo and love to travel. I love music and theatre and regularly attend performances from music concerts to ballet and musical theatre performances.



**Rev Mark Williams**  
Foundation Governor

Hello! I'm Fr Mark the Vicar of the Haven group, which includes the parish of Donington. I've been a governor for around 15 years in different schools with very diverse communities.

I've been made very welcome at Cowley both at governor's meetings, and for assemblies. With the aid of singing, actions, and some furry friends I aim to bring a space of joy, and reflection for children of all faiths or none.

As an ex officio governor originally, I am proud to represent the traditions of the school founded by the vision of my predecessors.

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**Dr Shirley Spoors**

Foundation Governor

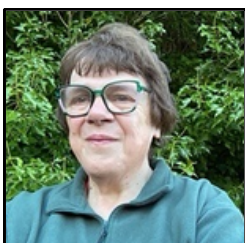
I have lived in Pointon for 25 years with my family and both children went to St Gilberts. As a busy working mother with over 30 years working for the NHS, I have been fortunate to have held a number of senior leadership positions as a Consultant Clinical Biochemist and Head of Service. I'm now retired and eager to use my experience and knowledge to support the Horizon Federation Governing Body. I am passionate about making sure that all pupils and staff have a safe, stimulating, and inclusive environment to thrive.



**Mr David Spoors**

Foundation Governor

Originally from Newcastle, I moved around the country with work and settled in Pointon in 2001 with the family. The children attended St Gilberts. I'm a retired District Manager having worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years.



**Mrs Janet Lambert**

Foundation Governor

I am a retired agronomist and my last employer was Natural England. I have lived in Pointon for over 35 years and both my daughters attended Pointon School. I have been a Foundation Governor for the last 3 years with responsibility for church school distinctiveness. I am looking forward to moving on as a Foundation Governor with the new Horizon Federation between Pointon and Donington primary schools which is already proving to enhance both schools.

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**Mr Simon Walsh**

Foundation Governor

I am looking forward to using my business and management skills to assist the now Federated schools in achieving its goals, ensuring a good positive outcome for all of the students and staff



**Mr Tony Keast**

Foundation Governor

My name is Tony, and I am one of the Foundation Governors. I currently work for East Midlands Railway, although I am a qualified teacher, having studied for four years at the University of Brighton. I hold coaching qualifications in various sports, including football and swimming, and have previous experience working within primary, secondary, and special education needs schools. Additionally, I have worked with children both abroad in the USA and aboard cruise ships, predominantly sailing out of Australia and China. I am the Vice Chair of The Donington Cowley PTFA and was previously a parent governor, with my daughter currently in Key Stage 1



**Mr Sam Creasey**

Foundation Governor

I'm a Senior Design Engineer for a local family Engineering Company. I have been a member of Donington's governing body for 3 years. I am looking forward to what the future holds for our new Federation.

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## **Mrs Rachel Chapman**

Parent Governor

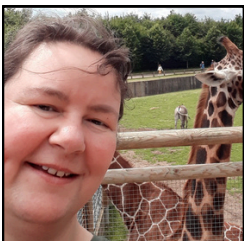
I am a mother of two pupils who currently attend Donington Cowley. I wanted to become a parent governor to give back to our school for everything they have done and to gain more knowledge and insight into the school.



## **Mrs Laura Powell**

Parent Governor

I am a parent governor across the federation of schools. I have been parent governor at St Gilbert's since my son started at the school 4 years ago. I am a proud parent to two children at St Gilbert's and live locally in Horbling.



## **Miss Laura Craigie**

Staff Governor

I am Laura Craigie. I am a qualified secondary Geography teacher and have worked in education for over 20 years. I have been at St Gilberts School in Pointon for 4 years now as a TA in Year 1/2 and now I'm back in Early Years where I first started which I love . I have been staff governor for over a year and am looking forward to continuing in the role for the Horizon Schools Federation. I believe through collaboration and shared passions as a team we can make a difference to the school, children, families and wider community we serve.

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A strong governing body is essential for the federation's success. We look forward to contributing towards the continued success of the schools within the federation and take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment.

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“Aspiration, Inspiration,  
Together we can”

“Sow Seeds, Grow  
Together, Reach High”

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