

Angela Darnell (Appointed) (Chair)

Angela Darnell started her teaching career at Framwellgate School Durham in 1975. She left in 1990 to take up a post as Deputy Headteacher at Egglecliffe School in Stockton on Tees where she was promoted to Headteacher in 1994. She retired, after twenty years of headship, in July 2014. Egglecliffe School was graded outstanding in three consecutive inspections (2005, 2008, 2013). The school was characterised by high levels of achievement, excellence in teaching and learning, a longstanding commitment to the importance of pastoral care and a belief in holistic education. In 2010 Angela was awarded an O.B.E. for “services to education”. Since retiring Angela has worked with a range of secondary schools in Stockton L.A. as a School Improvement Adviser. She has also done some work for Durham University School of Education in her role as Honorary Fellow.

Joanne Thorns (Vice Chair)

Joanne joined the Governing Board as a parent governor in 2006. She is Vice Chair of the Governing Board and Chair of the Personal development, behaviour and welfare sub-committee. She worked for 10 years as the local parish priest at All Saints Church on Newton Hall and was involved in many community groups, activities and worked with other local schools. She is now the Regional Officer for North East Churches Acting Together, a charity that encourages churches to work together and engage with their local communities. Joanne originally qualified, and worked locally, as a pharmacist before training for ordination to the priesthood. She is passionate about the education and well-being, believing that every child should have the chance to fulfil their potential. She has been Chair of Governors at a local primary school. She has one daughter currently at the school.

Andy Gargett (Staff Governor)

Andy joined Framwellgate School Durham as a newly qualified teacher in September 2001. Since his initial appointment he has held numerous positions of responsibility within the school including Deputy Head of House, Acting Head of Year 11 and Deputy Head of Science. For the last 9 years he has been the Director of Science. He has a daughter at the school who was desperate to enrol here even though this isn't her local school. Andy is proud to work at Framwellgate School Durham and keen to support the governing board in whatever way he can to help improve the learning outcomes and aspirations of all students at the school.

David Gurden-Williams (Appointed)

Dr David Gurden-Williams graduated with a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Wales, Cardiff in 2004. His career has been in various technical/laboratory roles for 3M covering quality, analytical, research and development and testing. Through these activities, David has become a member of safety, testing and standards committees at a national level. He has been involved with Framwellgate School Durham since 2010 as a STEM ambassador. David brings experience as a scientist, multi-national corporation employee and standardisation in a technical world.

Deborah Halliwell (Parent Governor)

Deborah studied A-Levels at Framwellgate School Durham and went on to gain a History/ Sociology Degree at Sunderland University. She works as a secretary in a local primary school, has longstanding experience as a primary school governor and twelve years as Beaver Scout Leader. She is currently the Chair Governors at a Durham primary school. Her youngest son is a student in the school. She believes in the lifelong learning and will actively seek to raise childrens' aspirations, helping them to reach their potential. In order to achieve the best outcomes for pupils she believes

it is important to work in partnership with children, parents and staff and she intends to work hard to build positive relationships with all stakeholders

Thomas Martell (Appointed)

Thomas works for a leading education charity that aims to promote improving education through better use of evidence. Previously he was a secondary school teacher, Head of Department and staff governor. He wants all children, irrespective of background, to have a fantastic education, which is why he chose to become a school governor. He intends to use his professional experience to support and challenge the school to achieve the best possible education for all pupils. Specifically, he hopes to promote better use of evidence because looking at what has, and has not, worked in the past can put us in a much better place to judge what is likely to work in the future.

Denis Martin (Appointed)

Denis joined the Governing Board in 2016 and he is Chair of the Achievement and Standards sub-committee. He is Professor of Rehabilitation at Teesside University. With a background in physiotherapy, he has worked in teaching and research into pain management and rehabilitation for over 25 years. He also has extensive experience of the voluntary sector having been Chair of Pain Association Scotland for over 10 years. He has one son in the school.

Jo-Anne O'Driscoll (Appointed)

Jo-Anne was a student at Framwellgate School Durham before gaining a First class degree in Business Studies at Huddersfield University. Since then she has worked in a number of performance posts around the UK for the Police, Probation Service and the NHS. She is currently a member of the Senior Management Team at County Durham Youth Offending Service with responsibilities for performance, system development and finance. Jo-Anne lives on Newton Hall with her husband and son, who is a student at Framwellgate School Durham.

Richard Royle (Appointed)

Richard is Headteacher at Elemore Hall School, near Pitlington, County Durham. Elemore Hall is a special school for up to eighty pupils who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties. Consequently Richard brings a valuable skill set to the FSD governors with his extensive knowledge about all aspects of SEND. He has worked in the special school sector throughout his career. He is our link governor for SEND and the Achievement Centre. Richard lives locally and he has two sons at Framwellgate School Durham.

Amy Russell (Appointed)

Amy joined the governing board in May 2018. She is a lecturer in Classics at the University of Durham and she lives locally. Hence she is keen to be involved in the local community. She is interested in creating pathways for students between school and FE/HE and wants to help bridge the gap between the city and the university in Durham. Amy brings a range of skills to the governing board with her administrative and committee experience in the Classics department. She also offers valuable knowledge for our sixth form students with regard to university applications, interviews and career choices.

Jen Straughan Hawley (Appointed)

Jen joined the Governing Board in 2011 when her son joined year 7. Since then she has supported the school as a member of the Health and Safety Committee, Disability Awareness Group and School Company Board. Currently she is the Chair of the Community and business operations sub-committee. Jen has worked in the hotel industry in front of house/sales and group roles. Her work as a local government facilities management officer includes working with community groups and civic teams. Her work background and involvement in the local Area Action Partnership and Durham City Shopwatch have provided Jen with a well-rounded and informed insight into the local community, which has proven to be a valued asset in her capacity as a governor.