

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.

Mike Hall (Parent Governor)

Mike Hall, born in Durham and educated at Durham Johnston School, before attending Loughborough College for three years, has gained a wealth of global experience as one of the early pioneers in vacation ownership. He has worked as Managing Director in the marine and real estate industries across Central America, Europe and Asia for 23 years. Together with his international business acumen from time at Ford Motor Company Europe, Mike is well positioned to bring his passion, together with a wide range of experience, to assist and build on the excellent work the

school has already achieved in allowing our children to become the best they can be. Mike currently has one son attending FSD.

Lesley Hamill (Parent Governor)

Lesley joined the governing board in 2020, following 7 years as a parent governor at Finchale Primary School. A trained secondary French and German teacher, Lesley started her career at Park View School in Chester-le-Street, where she later became Head of German. She also worked for a year in Gateshead as an MFL Consultant, working with secondary schools on the KS3 MFL Framework. After a career break to spend time with her three children, Lesley began teaching French at Lanchester EP Primary School, and now also teaches French at Finchale Primary. Since her two eldest children started at Framwellgate School, Lesley has been impressed with the experience they have had so far and is very happy to join the Governing Board and support the school in any way she can.

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 McShane (Appointed)

Jo is a Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Sunderland. She has extensive teaching and senior leadership experience in both university teacher training and secondary school sectors, and her subject specialism is Religious Education. She is passionate about inclusive education and has written extensively on the themes of teaching and learning, gifted and talented education and the practice of exclusion in schools. Jo is known for her effectiveness in coaching and developing colleagues and the development of effective and innovative cross-sector partnerships in education. She is about to start her professional doctorate in education and looks forward to bringing new links with the university, her awareness of diversity and research-informed educational expertise to the LGB.

Daniel Lynch (Appointed)

Daniel works for Children and Young People's Services, as part of the Local Authority, where he provides Careers Guidance and support to young people in County Durham. He comes from an extensive teaching background, having taught English in several secondary schools and alternative provisions across the North East. He is an elected Parish Councillor and looks forward to utilising his knowledge of Careers Guidance to improve outcomes and destinations for students. He is passionate

about education and is a strong believer in 'Every Child Matters'. As a school governor, he hopes to ensure that all students, irrespective of backgrounds, make excellent progress and enjoy their time at school.