

# SOUTH BERSTED CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Governor Profiles – September 2025



John 10:10

*'Learning for Life, Aiming for Excellence, Listening to the Voice of God'*

Parent	Foundation	Staff	Local Authority	Headteacher	Co-Opted	Associate
Rachel Topley Victoria Gumbrell	Tim Crook Helen Lambert <b>VACANT</b>	Michelle Robson	Katrina Ugur	Noel Goodwin	Stephen Garrard <b>VACANT</b> <b>VACANT</b>	Rachel Bush
<b>Chair of Governors</b> – Katrina Ugur						
<b>Vice Chair of Governors</b> – Stephen Garrard						
<b>Clerk</b> – GVO						

### Local Authority Governor / CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



I was initially appointed as a Parent Governor in March 2021 as both my children attended the school. My daughter recently left the school in July and very much valued her 'school family' which is one of the reasons why I wanted to be a part of the governing body.

I truly believe in the ethos and culture of the school, having had first-hand experience of how the school cares for its pupils and strives for them to have the best outcomes. I am a social worker by profession therefore safeguarding is important to me both professionally and personally. When the opportunity arose to become the Safeguarding Governor in July 2021, it felt a natural progression for me and I remain dedicated to this role.

Outside of work, I like to spend time with family and friends both in the UK and in Turkey. I also like to learn about different cultures and travel.

### Co-Opted/ VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As a Project Officer at WSCC - Active Travel to School, I am deeply committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for children's development. My professional background centers around project management and construction, where I have honed skills in strategic planning, resource allocation, and problem-solving over the past 12 years. This experience, marked by a focus on delivering projects on time and within budget, provides me with a strong foundation for effective governance.

My motivation to serve as a school governor is rooted in a personal connection to the school community. With my son currently attending, and my daughter hopefully following in his footsteps, I am invested in ensuring the school's continued success and positive impact on its students.

I believe my key strengths lie in my ability to approach challenges with a strategic mindset, coupled with meticulous project oversight. I am adept at analysing complex situations, developing practical solutions, and driving initiatives forward.

	<p>Beyond the technical aspects of project management, I am committed to collaborative teamwork and clear communication, essential for fostering a positive and productive environment. My career has consistently demonstrated my ability to take ownership, lead effectively, and contribute to achieving organisational goals.</p> <p>Outside of my professional and community commitments, I enjoy snowboarding, walking, and supporting Brighton &amp; Hove Albion. I am dedicated to being an active and engaged school governor, committed to supporting the school's mission and working collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for all pupils.</p>
	<p><b>Rachel Bush – Associate Governor / Deputy Headteacher</b></p> <p>I have been the Deputy Headteacher at the school since September 2018. I immediately took a position on the Governing Body as an Associate Governor. My role within the school includes teaching across multiple year groups, leading on data and assessment, Pupil Premium and PSHE. I have previously worked as a member of SLT in a range of schools in a number of different areas and thoroughly enjoy being a part of the South Bersted team. The drive for both academic and emotional success for our children is paramount and the school thrives based on a community feel.</p>
	<p><b>Tim Crook – Foundation Governor (Ex-officio)</b></p> <p>I am the vicar at St Mary Magdalene Church, and as part of my role I am also invited to be a Governor at South Bersted School, which is a terrific privilege. I regularly give Collective Worship in school and am often in school for Governor visits and meetings. I met my wife Annette in Plymouth and we then relocated to Bognor Regis. I enjoy days out with our family. I have three children; my youngest daughter is currently at University having attended South Bersted School. I am passionate about food, and like eating in out in restaurants.</p>
	<p><b>Rachel Topley – Parent Governor</b></p> <p>I became a parent Governor as soon as my eldest daughter started in Reception in 2022 as I was so pleased with the transition that she had when joining, and the Christian ethos and family feel of the school. I have a background in education having been a PE teacher at Bishop Luffa school for 14 years. I have held middle management positions both in pastoral and teaching and learning roles and have also been a staff Governor. I have recently started teaching PE in our learning partnership primary school, which has given me an insight into how primary schools are run.</p> <p>I am the governor link to Year 6 and subject link to PE within South Bersted and I enjoy volunteering on school trips and as part of the Friends of South Bersted, helping to run fayres and events to raise money for the school.</p>

	<p>When I am not teaching or at home with my two daughters and husband I am usually playing netball, in the CrossFit box or out with family and friends</p>
	<p><b>Victoria Gumbrell – Parent Governor</b></p> <p>I became a parent governor recently in 2024, and have two children at the school currently. My eldest is in year 3 and my middle child has just started in reception. With my eldest we had to choose a school during covid, meaning we didn't get the opportunity to look at local schools in person. However, we were so impressed with the warm and welcoming feeling South Bersted managed to convey from the beginning, and have continued to be impressed by their ability to foster a love of learning. Having been an active member of the Friends of South Bersted it seemed like a great step when the role of parent governor came up.</p> <p>My background is working as a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, supporting children, young people and adults with a range of neurodiversity's and mental health diagnoses, primarily focusing on those with an ASD diagnosis. I use the science of behaviour analysis to focus on understanding why individuals engage in the behaviour they do, and how we can support people to maximise independence and quality of life. I'm really passionate about getting the right support in place for those who need it, and making learning accessible for all.</p> <p>Outside of work I am typically found trying to create some calm amongst the chaos of my two boys, baby girl and husband. I'm always grateful to live by the sea and love spending time with friends and family, or trying to find some quiet to get lost in a good book.</p>
	<p><b>Helen Lambert – Foundation Governor</b></p> <p>I am a member of South Bersted church and became a foundation Governor as I wanted to play a part in supporting and developing the relationship between church and school communities. I have a background in education and have been a foster carer for West Sussex. For many years I have been involved with pre-school playgroups and have worked as a volunteer with a Forest school. After two years study I obtained a counselling qualification. My experiences and background enable me to fulfil my role as a Governor.</p>
	<p><b>Michelle Robson – Staff Governor/Year 4 Class Teacher</b></p> <p>I am a Staff Governor having taken on the role in January 2016. I am currently the class teacher in Year 2 but have previously taught in a variety of year groups during my years with the school. I have seen many changes during this time and I believe the school is the best it has ever been with a committed staff who are focused on providing the best possible opportunities for all the children.</p>

I value the opportunity to be able to contribute to this not only in my role as class teacher and Subject Leader for Reading and Humanities, but through the role of Governor too.