

## Welcome to the Local Governing Body for Bowhill Primary School.

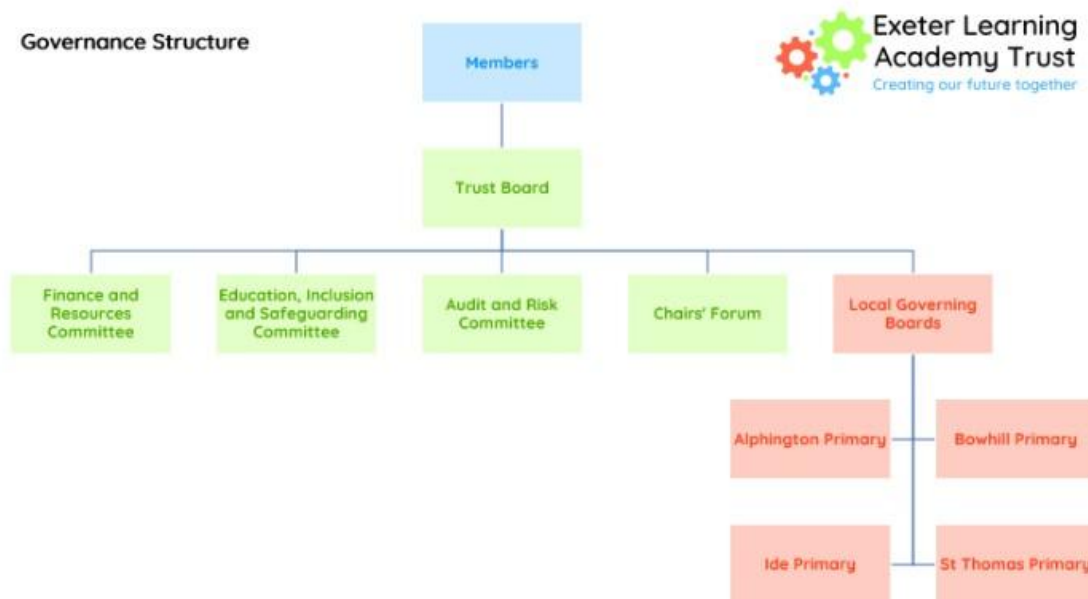
Bowhill Primary School is part of the Exeter Learning Academy Trust (ELAT) which is a partnership of 4 local schools based in Exeter.

ELAT is a primary trust educating more than 1200 children. ELAT believes that schools need to retain their own individuality to best serve the communities around them and we value the diversity that this brings to the Trust. However, we also know that we are stronger together and, as a Trust, we enable schools to share best practice; support with financial, HR and resource management; and provide school improvement support.

Our aim is to provide a quality education that opens up real choices for every one of our pupils, raising aspirations and helping every child to achieve their ambitions, no matter what their background.

The Trust has defined the responsibilities of persons involved in the governance of the MAT to avoid the duplication or omission of functions and to provide a framework of accountability for members, trustees/directors, governors, and staff.

The governance structure is as follows;-



**Local Governing Bodies (LGBs)** provide oversight for each of the schools within the Trust. LGBs are made up of Governors who are recruited locally. Their work resembles that of the governing bodies of maintained schools and is set within the vision, values and policies defined by the Trust. A **scheme of delegation** sets out the different roles played by the Trust and the LGBs and Terms of Reference describe the work of the LGG as well as the Trust's Board and Committees.

If you wish to contact the Chair of Governors, please contact The Clerk: [susan.fuller@schoolschoice.org](mailto:susan.fuller@schoolschoice.org) or write to the Clerk, C/O Bowhill Primary School, 4 Buddle Lane, Exeter, EX4 1JT.

Meetings of the Local Governing Body are open to members of the school community. If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact The Clerk: [susan.fuller@schoolschoice.org](mailto:susan.fuller@schoolschoice.org)

Minutes of meetings can be found on the school's website page. Meetings are held at the school and start at 5:30pm.

The Local Governing Body of Bowhill Primary School is comprised of the following members:

**Lesley Sharp: (Chair) Co-opted Governor**

Term of office from 29 Sep 2024 to 28 Sep 2028

First appointed on 29 Sep 2020



Lesley is an experienced strategic manager who has a strong knowledge of educational compliance. Her current job role is Director of Compliance for an Awarding and End-point Assessment Organisation. Her responsibilities include Responsible Officer for Ofqual and Safeguarding Lead. Throughout her career she has worked in many educational settings from nursery's through to further education establishments. She has educational experience around curriculum and standards development. She is also experienced in managing budgets and negotiating contracts. Lesley has always lived in or near to Exeter so has a good knowledge of the local area. She enjoys being a governor and feels privileged to be Chair of Governors for Bowhill Primary School.

**Anna Lopez (Headteacher) Ex-Officio**

First appointed on 1 Sep 2023



Anna joined Bowhill in September 2023, she brings with her 24 years of experience in the field of education. She is deeply committed to nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. At the heart of her ethos lies a dedication to fostering positive relationships, ensuring that every child at our school succeeds and has a future of choice and opportunity.

**Gareth Smith (Vice-Chair) Community Governor**

Term of office from 25 Sep 2024 to 24 Sep 2028

First appointed on 17 Nov 2020



Gareth has been a community governor for 2 and a half years. He has been teaching for 17 years and he has been in senior leadership for the last 10 of those. He is currently principal of a secondary school in Devon. Gareth has specialisms in mathematics and how to design and implement a whole school curriculum. Gareth portfolio as a governor is with the responsibility for our curriculum.

**Jennifer Hamilton Co-opted Governor**

Term of office from 18 Oct 2022 to 17 Oct 2026

First appointed on 18 Oct 2022



I have always tried not to let a single role define me, as we are all multi-faceted people, with many different and equally important roles. However, being a parent, grandparent, teacher, leader and manager and a governor, have been pretty important in terms of the many roles I have taken on in my life.

I worked at Exeter College for 25 years, having started as a part time teacher working with young people with additional learning needs; a role I really enjoyed and valued. Prior to retirement, I was as the Head of Student Experience at the College, where I led on safeguarding and managed a large portfolio of student services. I have extensive experience of safeguarding in education and a background in SEND.

I have been very fortunate to have worked in a range of education settings during my working life and am currently a governor at the Exeter Mathematics School as well as at Bowhill. I am passionate about education and want to ensure that all children and young people have the best experiences and outcomes possible from their time in education.

**Gemma Smale Community Governor**

Term of office from 23 Jan 2024 to 22 Jan 2028

First appointed on 4 Feb 2020



Gemma has joined the board of governors as a parent governor bringing with her 19 years of experience in Retail Banking, including senior leadership at a local and regional level. More recently Gemma balances family life with working part time as a Degree Apprenticeships Academic Mentor at the University of Exeter Business School. Gemma brings commitment and challenge, with a pragmatic approach as well as a real passion for development.

**Elaine Faulkner – Parent Governor**

Term of office from 15 Sep 2026 to 15 Sep 2030

First appointed on 15 Sep 2026



My son attends Bowhill, and I've been impressed by the school's community spirit and the care shown for each child. I'm excited to join the board of governors to learn more about how the school runs and help Bowhill to thrive. My current role is as a producer at Alibi, based in St Thomas, where we deliver a programme of creative activity for children, including taking projects into local schools to support learning. In my work, I spend a lot of time bringing people and ideas together to make things happen and I'll bring that same collaborative, practical approach to the role. I believe every child deserves an education that's a genuinely positive experience.

**Emma Quick Staff Governor**

Term of office from 2 Feb 2024 to 1 Feb 2028

First appointed on 2 Feb 2024



Emma has been teaching for just over eight years. Before qualifying as a teacher Emma completed her undergraduate degree in Sports Education at the University of Gloucestershire and then spent a year as a teaching assistant in a primary school in Exeter. Emma then went on to complete her PGCE at Plymouth University. She began her teaching career in a village school and gained invaluable insights into the unique dynamics of rural education. Her subsequent tenure at an international school in Abu Dhabi broadened her perspective, exposing her to different cultural backgrounds, children with English as an additional language and different educational systems. Emma began teaching at Bowhill Primary School in September 2021 and is also Phase Lead for Reception and Year 1.

**Nicola Scoines Support Staff Governor**

Term of office from 15 Sep 2026 to 15 Sep 2030

First appointed on 15 Sep 2026



I have been working at Bowhill for 11 years, where I started as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant and gained a wealth of knowledge and experience supporting children with a range of SEND needs. After two years, I progressed to the role of General Teaching Assistant and have since developed further in my career to become an HLTA.

During my time at Bowhill, I have had the opportunity to work across a variety of year groups, each bringing different experiences and challenges that I have thoroughly enjoyed. Working across the school has allowed me to develop a broad understanding of children's individual needs and different approaches to supporting their learning and development.

Prior to working in education, I attended Northumbria University in Newcastle, where I gained a degree in Performance. I then returned to Exeter to complete my PGCE at the University of Exeter, through Exeter College, where I taught Performing Arts. My background in Performing Arts has continued to influence my approach to teaching, particularly in encouraging creativity, confidence and self-expression in children.

**Wesley Chiang: Community Governor**

Term of office from 24 Sep 2024 to 23 Sep 2028  
First appointed on 24 Sep 2024



Wesley has been working in tertiary education in the area of life education for the last twenty-five years, gaining experience in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan. He moved to Exeter in 2023 and is currently working for an international student organisation where he has responsibilities for budget and project management, shaping of curricula, and working with diverse teams. Both his children have attended or are attending Bowhill.

**Harrison Littler**

Term of office from 16 Dec 2024 to 15 Dec 2028  
First appointed on 16 Dec 2024  
Appointed by Parents



Harrison is an experienced teacher and leader in education. He has worked in a range of school contexts from inner London, to Torquay and Exeter. He is currently the Headteacher of a secondary school in Exeter.

As a parent governor, Harrison believes that every child deserves an excellent education and a life of opportunity. Driven by a commitment to social justice, he has previously served as a primary school governor in West London, has sat on the UK Board of a large international NGO, and spent four years as a Councillor in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

**Clare Thornley**

Term of office from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026  
First appointed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025



Clare joined the board of governors as Community Governor in June 2025. Clare is a Chartered Company Secretary and Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute of UK & Ireland. She applies 12+ years of corporate governance experience to her role as Governor gained in professional services to UK premium-listed companies, joint ventures and private limited companies and has worked as Group Deputy Company Secretary to an international, private equity-owned veterinary group where she formed the governance function.

Clare has lived in Exeter since 2012 and has a passion to support Bowhill's engagement with the local community. Her two sons are/will attend Bowhill Primary School. In her spare time Clare enjoys spending time outdoors with her two lively boys enjoying the Devon countryside.

**Steven Arthur-Wallis**

Term of office from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026  
First appointed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025



Steve has experienced in working directly with children and young people for over a decade. He has worked in various settings from Targeted and universal youth work , to further education teaching and youth Voice. He currently works in a wellbeing role for the NHS across Primary and Secondary schools in Exeter.

Steve is passionate about community and pupil voice and the importance of wellbeing and feeling welcome to successful school life and achievement.

**Governor roles:**

**Chair:** Lesley Sharp

**Vice Chair:** Gareth Smith

**Clerk:** Sue Fuller

**Attendance:** Gemma Smale  
Michelle Denman

**Behaviour:** Gemma Smale  
Michelle Denman

**Community:** Susannah Cornwall

**Curriculum:** Gemma Smale  
Gareth Smith

**Early Years:** Gemma Smale

**Exclusion:** Gemma Smale  
Michelle Denman

**Maths:** Gemma Smale  
Gareth Smith

**PE and Sports Premium:** Gareth Smith

**Premises and Facilities:** Wesley Chiang

**Pupil Premium:** Gareth Smith

**Safeguarding:** Jennie Hamilton

**SEND:** Susannah Cornwall  
Jennie Hamilton

**Wellbeing:** Emma Quick  
Susannah Cornwall  
Steven Arthur-Wallis

**Wraparound Care:** Jennie Hamilton