

Paul Raikes



Chair of Governors

With many years of experience in the construction industry, Paul brings with him strong leadership and a commitment to teamwork. Having previously served as Chair of his children's school in Lambeth, he now brings that same dedication to St James' by supporting our vision and values in enabling every child to thrive. He's excited to work with and get to know all the staff, the families and the pupils in his new role.

Michael Oliver

Headteacher

Mr. Oliver has worked at St. James' since January 2008 and became Head Teacher in May 2023. During his time in the school, he has held many different roles from Teaching Assistant, class teacher, English subject lead and senior leader. Serving a significant length of time at St. James' has enabled him to really get to know the children, families and wider community St. James' serves in addition to working closely with the parish church and Governors, all of whom are keenly invested in seeing St. James', and its children and families, thrive in a happy and safe environment.

Katie Kelly



Foundation Governor

Rev Katie Kelly is the vicar of both St James' and St Anne's churches and really values the connection with our parish school. She enjoys the opportunity to come into school and lead Collective Worship, getting to know the children and staff. She has lived in Bermondsey since

1996 and has four daughters and a couple of grandchildren. All her children attended local primary schools, and she knows what an important part of the community primary schools are. Do say hello if you see her out and about!

Rev Katie Kelly, vicar of St. James' C of E Church

Pat O'Connor



PCC Foundation Governor

Pat worked at St James' as a member of staff for 28 years first as a TA and SEN support worker and then running the breakfast & after school club. Pat is a foundation Governor and has been Church warden and administrator at St James' Church for over 20 years and is a Sunday group leader for 4-11 year olds. Pat has children and grandchildren, who she spends a lot of her free time with (not that she has much free time!).

Michaela McDonald



PCC Foundation Governor

Michaela is driven by her faith, her role as a mother, and her commitment to making a positive difference in the community. As a Christian, philanthropist, and fundraiser, she believes in creating opportunities for children to thrive—academically, spiritually, and personally. Passionate about supporting education that nurtures both learning and character. Michaela's goal is to help shape an environment where every child feels valued, inspired, and equipped to reach their full potential.

Bola Hassan



Parent Governor

I feel it is an honour to be serving as one of your parent governors and as a parent of three children at the school—one in Reception, another in year 5 & 6—I have seen first-hand the care, dedication, and energy that go into making the school a positive, nurturing environment for our children.

As a parent governor, my mission is to advocate for high-quality education, support school leadership with integrity, and ensure that every decision reflects the best interests of all children. Bringing a parent's perspective to the table, striving to build a stronger bridge between families and the school, and to help create an inclusive, supportive, and forward-thinking learning environment.

Professionally, I work in HR and leadership development as a Strategic Senior HR Business Partner. My experience in HR policy design helps me support with reviewing and refining school policies, ensuring they are fair, legally sound, and effectively implemented.

As a parent Governor, I can act as a bridge between parents, teachers, and leadership within the school, ensuring concerns are addressed constructively. I can also help facilitate open communication channels, ensuring transparency in school decision-making. I have had the privilege to meet a lot of parents and guardians at the big coffee event in May, bringing together parents & guardians, the governor, and community support available to parents, and hope to work closely with more parents and build the engagement.

I am committed to listening, asking thoughtful questions, and being a voice for parents & guardians. If you ever see me at pick-up or drop-off, feel free to say hello—I would love to hear your thoughts, concerns, or ideas.

Helen Bennett-Brown



PCC Foundation Governor

I am a stem cell biologist, currently researching a cure for Type 1 Diabetes at King's College London. Alongside my work, I am a keen musician, mainly singing in church choirs, and particularly with the Merbecke Choir at Southwark Cathedral. I was searching for opportunities to contribute to my local community, and St James', with its emphasis on inclusivity and strong extra-curricular offering represented a fantastic chance for me offer perspectives from my experience

Sophie Ogunyemi



Co-opted Governor

I was lucky enough to go to great schools as a child where I thrived and which I enjoyed being a part of. I'm keen to help ensure another generation gets the best education and experience from their time at school. That is why I became a governor at St James'. I bring my experience in marketing and the arts (music especially) to support the school's vision and to help ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve their potential. I am committed to working with staff, parents, and the community so that St James continues to be a place where children feel safe, happy, and inspired.

Sherine Gray



Parent Governor

I am a secondary school teacher with over 15 years' experience in teaching and leadership, currently serving as an Associate Assistant Headteacher at St Saviour's and St Olave's CofE School. My work in curriculum and pastoral care has shaped a deep commitment to student development, equity, and high expectations.

As a local mother and passionate advocate for educational equality, I'm proud to serve as a parent governor at St James'. With a son at the school and a strong belief in the power of community-led change, I aim to bring my professional insight and personal dedication to help ensure every child is supported to thrive.

Helena Campbell



PCC Foundation Governor

My name is Helena Campbell and I have been a governor since January 2024. I sit on the Learning Environment and Faith committees and have an interest in sustainability and health and safety, as well as the Christian ethos of the school. I work as a solicitor in central London, specialising in environmental and sustainability law. I live in Bermondsey with my husband and son.

I have attended St James church for some time (although these days you will find me more often at the sister church St Anne), which led me to start volunteering at St James school, helping with reading on Friday mornings, and becoming a governor shortly afterwards. I have really enjoyed my time supporting with reading, and I hope my regular visits have given me a good insight into school life and have helped me to get to know some of the staff and children. Where I can, I also enjoy attending some of the school services at St James church. As a governor, my aim is to support the school as it works to create a safe and happy environment, inspired by Christian values, for the children in its care, helping them to develop their talents and flourish, and I am delighted to be able to use my time in this regard.

Chris Klimczyk



Parent Associate Governor

I have a long professional experience working in Financial Services, initially in recruitment then in regulatory compliance and policy. Originally from Poland, I hold a BA from Glamorgan University and MA from Krakow University of Economics, both in Business. I am passionate about cultural diversity and linguistics. I am a Parent Associate Member on the governing body with one child in St. James'. I decided to join the governing body of St James as I fell in love with this school when my daughter started attending and felt inspired by everyone working here.

Saikat Chattopadhyay



Local Authority Governor

Saikat works in financial risk management at Deutsche Bank. He holds a Master's degree from the LSE, and professional certifications relevant to his area of expertise. He is a school governor through his workplace's governor-for-schools volunteering program. The program interested him as it was a longer-term engagement to support the school's strategic development. He acts as the Finance Chair on the governing board.

Anne Stevens

Awaiting details, recently joined the board of governors.