



New Mills School

Headteacher:
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Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors at New Mills School. I have been a Governor at NMS for 4 years and Vice Chair for the last 2. I currently have 2 children at the school in year 10, and another one who has just completed year 11 and gone on to 6th form college. Many of you will know me through what was until recently, my day job, as PE Coordinator at New Mills Primary School and I have had the privilege of teaching many of the school's current student body through their primary years.

School governors are volunteers who help lead and support the strategic direction of the school. Together, the Governing Board works in partnership with the Headteacher and senior leaders to ensure the school provides the best possible education for all its pupils. In a world of exams and 'outcomes', we are passionate about developing the whole child, through nurturing their sense of identity, helping them to understand their place in the world, and supporting their aspirations for the future.

I am delighted to be working with the school team at such an exciting time, as we build on the success of last year's GOOD Ofsted grading. It was a real pleasure to speak with the Lead Inspector about our fantastic staff team and the incredible work carried out over the past two years to improve both outcomes and the overall school experience for all our students.

In my role as Chair, I look forward to working closely with the leadership team, staff, students, parents and fellow governors to ensure we build #TeamSpirit, continue to #ThinkBig and encourage our students to #DotheRightThing.

Our Governing Board is made up of a diverse group of volunteers from the parent body, staff and our wider community. In this letter, I have included a list of our current governors with a short pen portrait for each. We are always looking for new governors so please let me know if you would like to know more about the work of the Governing Board.

Best Wishes

Sue Fisher
Chair of Governors
New Mills School

Chair of Governors : Sue Fisher – I am currently a self-employed PE Specialist having recently left the role of PE Coordinator at New Mills Primary School. I currently have 2 children at NMS and have been a Governor for 4 years. I have previously worked in the commercial sector for Unilever, and also in the charity sector for the Heritage Lottery Fund. I am passionate about the positive impact that health and fitness can have on the lives of young people, helping them build confidence, resilience, and lifelong healthy habits.

Vice Chair of Governors : Simon Evans - I have been a Governor since July 2024 and am also a New Mills Town Councillor and High Peak Borough Councillor for New Mills West. I am a self-employed consultant in legal and financial services and specialise in public affairs and communication support. I enjoy all sport and can often be found at either the football or cricket grounds in New Mills depending on the season!

Parent Governor: Katherine Bramhall - I'm delighted to have joined the New Mills School governor team this year. I've worked as a primary school teacher for over 23 years and I'm a mum to two children in Year 11 and Year 9. I'm passionate about SEND provision, the arts, and ensuring every child can access a balanced, inclusive curriculum and achieve their full potential.

Parent Governor: Emma Fairhurst - I am a recently appointed parent governor with a professional background as a town planner and heritage specialist, bringing over 15 years of experience in local government. My career has centred on strategic decision-making, policy development, and advising on the sustainable management and maintenance of historic environments. I'm keen to apply these skills to support the long-term vision, planning, and governance of the school.

Co-opted Governor: Professor David Houlst – I am a musician and was formerly principal of Leeds College of Music. I have been a governor at New Mills since November 2018.

Parent Governor: Steph Goodall - I began my role as a parent governor in June 2024, and currently, one of my two children attends the school. With over a decade of experience as a Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager in a primary school, I bring a deep understanding of children's well-being and safety to my position. My passion lies in fostering a supportive and secure environment for students, ensuring they receive the best possible care and opportunities to thrive

Staff Governor: Sarah Coen - I have worked at New Mills School for eighteen years and this is my second term as staff governor. I live in New Mills and am proud to be a part of this warm and vibrant community. I enjoy reading, music and getting out and about in our beautiful High Peak countryside.

Coopted Governor: Jo Lomax - I have been a coopted governor since January 2022, I'm the link governor for SEND. As a former NMS student, it's great to be part of the governing board and see how much the school has progressed. Outside of school I work as a project manager.

Coopted Governor: Mattias Benzer - I am a sociologist, specialising in social theory, and I work as a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Sheffield. I have been conducting social science research and teaching sociology in higher education since 2008. In my spare time, I like playing football, fell running, and skiing.

Headteacher Governor: Heather Watts - I am proud to be the Headteacher of New Mills School, with over 25 years of experience in education. I believe that education has the power to remove barriers and opens doors for young people, helping them to realise their full potential. At New Mills, our values – Think Big, Do the Right Thing, and Show Team Spirit – are at the heart of everything we do, and I am committed to ensuring every student thrives in a supportive, ambitious, and inclusive environment