



modern trends! A voracious reader, she enjoys all forms of literature and the theatre. She has, in her retirement developed a late love affair with Italy and is learning Italian. In 2009 she gained her "A" level 56 years after her first three- clear evidence of her commitment to lifelong learning.

**Mrs Polly Lewis**  
**AUTHORITY GOVERNOR**

Polly Lewis has lived in the village since 1981 and her children, Bethan and Bryn, attended Elmstead Primary School. Polly is currently an Assistant Head Teacher at Manningtree High School. She previously taught at Market Field School, the special school in Elmstead. Consequently she is the Governor overseeing the provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Polly joined the Governing Body three years ago when Elmstead Parish Council was asked to nominate a Governor for the school as she is also a Parish Councillor for the village of Elmstead.

**Mr Steven Coombs**  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR**

Stephen has lived for 38 years in the village, is married to Linda and has one son who attended the school in the eighties. Currently semi-retired, Stephen has worked for 40 years in London mainly involved with Merchant and Investment banking, gaining a broad based business experience. He sits on the Finance and Curriculum committees and is the training link governor.

**Mr Richard Giles**  
**VICE-CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

Richard has three children at the school and one in the Nursery; his older daughter is now at St Benedicts in Colchester. He works as a Business Consultant based in Brightlingsea and now specialises in helping overseas companies to get business established in the U.K. Amber is an NHS Health Trainer currently based at Harwich Hospital. As a Parent Governor Richard lead the project to re-open the kitchen to provide hot lunches for the children and has since chaired the Finance sub-committee and looked after special projects to help upgrade different aspects of school life. Day to day life with a large family provides an excellent sounding board for all aspects of the school.

**Mrs Eve Hardman**

To be completed...

**Ms Ruth Watling**  
**PARENT GOVERNOR**

Ruth is a long term supporter of the school. She is the mother of four children, all of whom are attending the school. This puts Ruth in an excellent position to share her insights as a parent and to share her first hand experiences with the Governing Body. In addition to being Parent Governor Ruth has volunteered at the school in a number of ways. Primarily this work has been through EPSA and supporting our teachers within the classrooms.

**Mr Stephen Grice**  
**PARENT GOVERNOR**

Stephen has been a member of the Governors for 18 months and has lived in Elmstead for 16 years. He is married to Joanna who has recently been appointed Catering Manager at the school. Joanna and Stephen have 4 children: Ben 13 years (attended EPS and now at Colchester Royal Grammar School), Sophie 10 years (attends EPS), Emily 7 years (attends EPS) and Lucy 2 years (hopefully will attend EPS!).

Stephen has responsibility for Finance oversight / reporting as part of the schools responsibilities for FMiS (Financial Management in Schools), a member of the Finance Committee, deputy chair of the Premises Committee and is the lead Governor for the Geography curriculum.

Stephen has worked in financial services for over 23 years and has held roles that have taken him regularly to South America, Asia, North America and Europe. Stephens interests include travel, sport (watching!) and most importantly his large family! He has also been a Parish Councillor for Elmstead

**Mrs Sacha Brakenbury**  
**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, PARENT GOVERNOR**

Sacha Brakenbury (BA Hons Psychology and Linguistics, PGCE, MEd, NPQH) moved to Elmstead in January 2008 where she lives with her husband (Matthew) and is mum to their 3 young boys; Callum (6) Jack (4) and Thomas (1). Having initially worked for 6 years as a Primary School Teacher, Sacha went on to take up a Travelling Fellowship in North America with the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, researching international approaches to drugs and health education for young people. She followed this up by a research fellowship in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific – working with a range of professional sports clubs – each of which was working in the field of community youth education. She moved back to England in 2001 to take up the new position of Education Director at Ipswich Town Football Club, securing funds for 3 new Study Centres (Ipswich Town FC, National Stud Newmarket and the Oulton Broad Watersports Centre). Sacha recently gained her Masters degree in Education and as a qualified Head teacher, she has specialised in critical friendship and mentoring. She now works part time, running her own business and fundraising consultancy and is a member of the Scott Polar Institute and the Royal Geographical Society. After their experiences following Thomas' difficult arrival into the world, the family are now ambassadors for the Sick Children's Trust. Her interests include having fun with her children, family and friends, polar travel, photography and writing.

**Mr William Triscott**  
**PARENT GOVERNOR**

Will has lived in Elmstead for most of his life and went to Elmstead Primary school. He grew up in the village and left to go to University in Bolton where he obtained a degree in business and computing. In 2004 he was married in Elmstead church then returned to live in the village in 2008.

Will also has an active roll in the local scout group and has done for many years.

Both of his children go to Elmstead Primary school. He has a vested interest in their schooling as a parent. He helps out in the classroom reading to the children in class R and volunteering to go on school trips.

**Mrs Catherine Crysell**  
**PARENT GOVERNOR**

To be completed...

**Mrs Philippa Downton**  
**PARTNERSHIP GOVERNOR**

Pippa Downton has been on the School Governing body since 2002 - just after she had been a parent at the school for previous eleven years as her three children had attended there. Pippa moved to the village in 1986 and now lives in Frating - just over the parish boundary.

She has worked as a General Practitioner in Colchester for the last twenty four years and works in practice and also as a trainer for general practitioners.

She has just stepped down having been Chair of Governors for the last 3 years and before that was the Vice Chair for several years.

In order to keep in touch with school she has worked as a volunteer in various classes one morning a week - she is currently helping in Class 2 and is enjoying hearing the Biff and Chip Magic Key adventures while listening to the children read. Last summer she was lucky enough to be able to go and help with Class 6 on their school journey to Bradwell. It reminded her of the amount of energy you need to keep up with an eleven year old! Pippa is looking forward to continuing to support the school in the future as it is of prime importance to our young people to give them a good education and experiences of sport, community activities and the arts.

**Revd Timothy Platts**  
**PARTNERSHIP GOVERNOR**

The Revd Tim Platts (M.A., D.Phil), known to your children as Father Tim, has lived in Elmstead since 2007 and works half time as the Church of England parish priest for the village and half time as the Chaplain to the Bishop of Colchester.

Tim's ministry began in an urban priority area of Reading and he then moved to his first sole church charge in Earley, a parish just a loop in the M4. His next responsibility was a parish in Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham diocese, after which he moved over to Chelmsford diocese and to Essex.

Tim has always been involved with local schools, a school governor, and really enjoys leading Assemblies with all age groups. He is married to Hilary and they have two children, both boys, who are now in secondary education.

**Ms Katie O'Sullivan**  
**TEACHER GOVERNOR**

This is Katie's fourth year teaching at Elmstead Primary School. She trained for her BA Hons degree in primary education at Northampton University, specialising in English. She currently teaches Class 2 and is the subject leader for PSHE, SEAL and History, teaching History to the current Year 6 class on a Thursday afternoon.

In her spare time, Katie enjoys travelling, frequent trips to the theatre and museums and long walks with her dog Harry.

**Mrs**

**Jen**

**Grotier**

**ACTING DEPUTY HEAD/OBSERVER**

Jennifer Grotier - BA (Hons)QTS Brunel University. I was born in Colchester and spent my childhood in Wivenhoe. After university I worked in a Special School for three years. I came to Elmstead Primary School in 1998. I have taught Year 2,3,5 & 6 during this time. I have been teacher governor twice. I have been subject leader for ICT, Maths, P.E, Science, D&T, Art and I was very briefly SENCo. I have been a member of the Leadership Team for four years, with responsibility for KS2.

I am married to Paul, who is a Golf Pro at The Essex Golf & Country Club. We have two children, Rosie & Joseph.

I am a member of EMCHAT(Elmstead Market Community Hall Action Team). It is such an exciting prospect as it will be of such benefit to the village and the school.

I have been a season ticket holder at Colchester United for 28 years (along with my dad). I enjoy walking our dog, going to the cinema and reading(not as much as I would like due to time & young children!)