

GOVERNOR PROFILE MARGARET SHIPLEY



Who am I and how long have I been on the Governing Body?

I'm Margaret Shipley and I am the Chair of the Governing Body at Lemington Riverside Primary School. I've been on the Governing Body since November 2005 and became Chair in 2006.

Why did I decide to join the Governing Body?

I decided to become a governor when I retired. I had spent all my working life teaching geography in secondary schools so I was always interested in education but I wanted to join a primary school governing body to do more for the education of younger children which I believe is so fundamental to what they do in later life. Personally I have been very fortunate in that all my own experiences of education were very good and because of that, despite the fact that I came from a very poor family in a poor part of Darlington, my schools gave me wonderful opportunities and aspirations and that is what I want to help to do for your children.

What Governing Body committees do I serve on?

As well as chairing the governing body I'm also on a number of committees - Finance, Premises and Resources, Personnel and Curriculum and Standards. I also chair the Head Teacher's Performance Review Committee and am on the Community Cohesion and Equality Working Group so I get the chance to be involved in a large amount of what goes on in school. I am the link governor with the local authority for Safeguarding and for Children who are Looked After.

What other school activities have I been involved in?

I'm also involved in other activities in school. I enjoy walking along with the children when we visit the Methodist Church and Sugley Church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. I attend PACT sessions and, though I have no artistic ability at all, I love working with the children and "helping" them in their efforts. I come to events in school such as the nativity play and leavers' assembly and I always come to Lemington Festival. I also help on school

visits and have been with Reception to Whitley Bay aquarium and with Year 6 to London. From time to time I am invited to join staff in their training sessions and I enjoy working with them and getting to know them better.

We are told in our governor training sessions that our job as a governor is to be a 'critical friend' and I hope that is what we achieve!