



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 Governors at Lemington Riverside Primary School. I've been on the Governing Body since 2005 and I became Chair of Governors in 2006. In that time LRPS celebrated its centenary and we helped to write a leaflet which took people on a walk around Lemington and introduced them to its very interesting history. We were also founding members of the Outer West Learning Trust which gives us opportunities to link up with a variety of schools in this area to share experiences and develop skills. We now have a very energetic new Head Teacher who is creating a whole range of new opportunities for the children of LRPS.

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 and was also a deputy head teacher so I was interested in education. I decided that I would like to be a governor in a primary school 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 poor family in a poor part of Darlington, my schools and my family gave me wonderful opportunities and aspirations which eventually took me to London University and a degree in Geography. It made me realise how important educational opportunities are for everyone and it has been a strong motivating force in my work on the governing body of LRPS. I now have 4 grandchildren and so I also see primary schools through their eyes and those of their parents and this helps me to look at our school in a different way.

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 so I get involved with a great variety of the aspects of life at LRPS. I also chair the Head Teacher's Performance Review Committee and I am the Link Governor for Safeguarding and for Children who are Looked After.

What other school activities do I get involved in?

I enjoy walking along with the children (and having a good chat!) when we visit Lemington Methodist Church and Sugley Church for services at Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter and over the years I have got to know many of the local people involved there. I come to events in school such as the nativity play and leavers' assembly and I always come to the Lemington Festival (usually helping with the tombola) which gives me the chance to meet our pupils and their relations in a different way. 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 is to be a 'critical friend' and I hope that is what we as governors manage to achieve. LRPS is very special to us all!

