**Lorraine Balcombe – Co-opted Governor /Chair of Governors**

I have a management background and wanted to give something back to my children’s school and the local community, so I volunteered as a Parent Governor at George Spurgeon School in October 2005. I soon found myself involved in the Fresh Start process when the school underwent rapid change from George Spurgeon, to what we now know as Castle Hill. I have been Chair of Governors at Castle Hill since it first opened in January 2007. Knowing nothing about the education system I learned fast to ensure the best outcomes for our children. I have since passed my BTEC in Governance and gone on to become a Lead Governor for the Local Authority and as such support other schools. I grew up in Hythe but have lived in the local community, with my husband and two children, for over 25 years. Becoming involved with education and making a difference to our school, and the East Folkestone community, has always been my passion. Both my children attended this school; one is in full time employment as a supervisor and the other at University with the ambition of becoming a Vet. I am extremely proud to be associated with Castle Hill and how the education they receive is impacting on so many children’s lives; raising aspirations and developing well-rounded individuals to embrace our modern society.

**Sandie Butcher – Co-opted Governor /Vice Chair of Governors**

I have been associated with Castle Hill Primary School for over 12 years; firstly, as an Assistant Headteacher and then in the role of a governor since 2014.

Early Years education is my passion and it is satisfying to see the young children at Castle Hill thrive in a supportive and nurturing environment.

**Rebecca Farrell Southin – Parent Governor /Co- Vice Chair of Governors**

I have been a parent governor since November 2016. I am responsible for safeguarding, SEN and attendance and behaviour.

My daughter is currently in year 4 having started at Castle Hill in the babies’ room at the nursery.

I think it is important that all children are provided with a happy and safe environment where they are encouraged to learn and reach their full potential.

**Pete Talbot - Headteacher**

I have the pleasure of being Headteacher at Castle Hill Community Primary school and as a result I am involved in all aspects of the Governing Body. I have been involved in education for almost 30 years and have been a Headteacher for the last 16.

**Sue Reed – Local Authority Governor**

I became a Governor in July 2016, having retired after 24 years as a non-teacher member of the Executive Team at The Folkestone School for Girls with responsibility for Buildings & Maintenance, Health & Safety and Personnel management.  I have been married for 45 years and my husband, being Folkestone born and bred, actually attended the former George Spurgeon School (now Castle Hill!).  With grandchildren passing through the Primary Education System, I was interested to gain experience outside of the Secondary Sector.  I consider it to be a privilege to share in the successful life learning journey of the pupils at Castle Hill and am committed to the core values of the School which are actively apparent whenever I visit the school community.

**Sheron Whitehead Co-opted Governor**

I'm a retired civil servant and have lived in Folkestone for 50 years. I am passionate about children's well-being and for me education is one of the most important things we can give our children and grandchildren.   Every child deserves the best education we can give them.  I am proud to be a governor at Castle Hill and look forward to seeing our youngsters blossom into the citizens of tomorrow.

**Rebecca Field – Co-opted Governor**

I used to be one of those parents who was very anti the education system, even Castle Hill. By putting myself forward, four years ago, to become a parent Governor my perspective has completely changed. Seeing how a school is run from within, and the passion and determination all the staff and Governors have, to ensure every child meets their full potential, leaves me in awe. I am so glad I made that change and am now involved in the children’s futures and making a difference to them.

**Ann Griggs – Co-opted Governor**

I started my career in banking but have worked in education for the past 25 years.  I am passionate about education and am aware of the many challenges faced by schools.  I lived in Folkestone for over forty years; serving as a Governor at Castle Hill Community Primary School means that I can use my skills and experience to give something back to my local community.  I am extremely proud of the school, its dedicated staff, wonderful children and supportive parents/carers.

**Peter Brook – Parent Governor**

As a new parent governor, I’m looking forward to getting stuck in and learning as many aspects as possible. Being allowed the opportunity to help shape the future of Castle Hill is an honour and a privilege.

**Karen Stanley – Staff Governor**

I started my teaching career by graduating from Canterbury Christchurch University College in 2003. I worked in Rainham for a few years and then supply and finally Castle Hill.

I have been teaching at Castle Hill CP School, and Nursery, since January 2007 where I started on a supply contract teaching Year 5/6 and Year 2 nurture groups. In the April of that same year I was offered a permanent contract and a job from September 2007 teaching Reception class. This was something I had never done but embraced the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed it. I spent my subsequent years teaching in Reception and Year 1 where I was added to the Middle Leadership team. I was fighting the KS1/EY’s corner as the Middle Leadership team comprised of KS2 teachers. I then became the Phase 1 Leader and Early Year’s SENCo and was asked to work in Nursery, another huge challenge. I am currently not class based.

I became a staff Governor in October 2014 in the hope that I would be able to bridge the link between staff and governors in the school.

**Annemarie McMurray – Co-opted Governor**

I knew I wanted to work with children from a young age and attended college completing a CACHE Level 3 Childcare Diploma when I left school. I then went on to train at Canterbury Christchurch University as a Primary School Teacher. Unfortunately, due to medical conditions, I felt I was unable to give the best of myself to the children I was working with by teaching full time.

I had been considering other ways I could support children in education and work with schools, for a while when I decided to explore becoming a School Governor. However due to the unsociable hours I sometimes worked I was unable to do so until recently, when I began a new job with Kent County Council.

Once I had my bearings in the new job, I began thinking about how much I missed supporting children with their learning and watching their improvements and successes; it was such a fulfilling process to be involved with and I missed it dearly! When I saw a posting for a School Governor at Castle Hill I applied immediately. After touring the school and meeting with the Chair of Governors I was lucky enough to be accepted. It feels almost as if I have come full circle, as I attended Castle Hill when it was George Spurgen. I cannot wait to get fully involved. I want to ensure all the children in my community receive the best education we can possibly give them to help them succeed in the future.

**Wendy Settle – Clerk to the Governors**

Education has always been important to me; for the past 10 years involved with School Governance. The difference between me and Governors is I am not a volunteer which is what drives me to do my very best for the Governing Board and ultimately, the children.

Performing this role involves carrying out research, being up to date with procedural and legislative matters, maintaining records and documentation, working with the Chair and Governors to ensure they meet their responsibilities and taking part in training and briefing sessions.

I am the mother of 2 boys and a very proud grandmother to 2 girls of primary age. Every Monday during term-time I am the childminder both before and after school. This is a special time when I enjoy the company of my special ladies. Whilst they are in their lessons, I volunteer at their school listening to other children read.

Members of my extended family live far and wide making our catch-up times less frequent but very lively. I like to spend time in France, enjoying the countryside, food and wine. My husband and I, along with other couples, take part in regular exchanges with our Dutch friends.

When in the UK I can be found with needles of some kind creating all sorts of garments, pictures or blankets. I also enjoy Tai Chi, which helps me battle Arthritis.

I’m a Governor at 3 other schools, so I appreciate the dedication and professionalism of all members of this Governing Board.