

Jo Birnie

I have worked in education for most of my career and am convinced that a positive and supportive experience at school can be the foundation of a child's future; in terms of their social skills and career opportunities. I am keen to support this element of Mullion School's strategic direction to develop personal resilience in students. As a former Lecturer of Psychology at Exeter College (1998-2017) I was involved in the management of academic courses and staff, day to day teaching and learning, tutoring, as well as internal and external OFSTED inspections. This gave me a range of skills and experiences that I bring to the role of governor at Mullion School. Before becoming a governor at Mullion school, I served as a parent governor at Woodroffe School in Dorset; being link governor for the departments of Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages. I have also sat on a number of Boards and Committees over the years. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of the governing body, discussing strategy at Board meetings and being a critical friend to the teaching teams.

Wellbeing, environmental issues and good nutrition are key passions of mine. As well as teaching Psychology I also worked in the NHS as an Assistant Psychologist. I volunteer with local beach cleans. I have been vegetarian since the age of 16 and am now vegan. With many of today's young people having an increased awareness of these issues it is important for schools to both lead the way as well as listen to their students' views on how to tackle such issues in the daily running of a school.

I have lived in the West Country for most of my life and love what the area has to offer. I particularly enjoy walking the coastal paths with my partner, Ashley. I have two children. My son is studying Graphic Design at Falmouth Art University. My daughter completed her GCSEs at Mullion School and I was able to see first hand the incredible support that she and her peers were given. She achieved an excellent set of grades and is now in her second year at Truro College studying Maths & Science A levels. To me, Mullion is a school where individual differences are celebrated and each child is nurtured to achieve. I value the opportunity to be an active member of the school's governance; drawing on my experiences to help support the school and the governing body.

I am currently Chair of Governors, with particular responsibilities for Humanities & RE, Governance Development and whistleblowing. My role is to both support and challenge the school leadership, to facilitate an environment of open discussion and effective governance, with a focus on school standards, pupil & staff safeguarding and stakeholders' involvement, and all within the wider community of the Southerly Point Cooperative Multi Academy Trust.