

I attended this school when it was Shirebrook Comprehensive in the 1980s and then went to work in a textile factory. However, it wasn't long before I realised I couldn't do that for the rest of my life and after two years I began a GSCE Sociology course at West Notts College. I then left my job and went back to college studying GCSE English and A Level Sociology, Psychology and History before attending Sheffield University undertaking a degree in Social and Political Studies. I recently completed a Masters Degree in Public Administration which was challenging alongside full time employment but very rewarding.

As a young person I was actively involved in voluntary work in Shirebrook with the Community Education Council, as a Voluntary Youth Worker, I was Chair of the Shirebrook Civic Society and was also previously a School Governor at Model Village Primary and Shirebrook Comprehensive.

After graduating I left Shirebrook and went to work for City of York Council and have remained in Local Government ever since working for councils in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. In my current role for Gedling Borough Council I work in deprived areas developing solutions to the challenges these areas face which includes working with partner organisations on raising aspirations, building self-esteem amongst adults and children and helping young people to achieve their potential. I care passionately about education and believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn.

As a Parent Governor I am happy to represent the views of parents at the Governing Body and can be contacted via the school office.

Deborah Widdowson
Parent Governor