

David Kennedy – Chair of Governors

David is a qualified accountant and has worked in industry in various commercial and managerial roles all of his life. He retired from Berghaus, the outdoor clothing maker, two years ago where he had been Finance Director for 20 years.

He has been Chair or Vice Chair of Governors for Eslington Primary School for more than 12 years and worked with Mrs. Richards, our Executive Headteacher, when she was Headteacher at Eslington Primary School. He is also Vice Chair of Governors at Bede Community Primary School and has been a governor there for 5 years.

David has been Chair of Governors at Furrowfield for three years and is also Chair of the Resources Committee.

Ken Childs – Vice Chair of Governors

Ken worked for 33 years for BT as an engineer and manager before taking early retirement. He subsequently did some consultancy work and gained a degree with the Open University.

Ken was a Gateshead Councillor for 5 years, during this time he was the first Chair of Gateshead Housing Company. He was Chair of the Gateshead Community Legal Advice Centre for 3 years.

Ken has been a governor since 1996 serving on several governing bodies and has been chair of governors in primary and secondary schools. He represents special schools on the School Forum, which he chairs.

Ken is also a governor of Eslington Primary School.

Bill Liddy – School and Residential Governor

Before going into the retail catering industry over 30 years ago Bill lived in and worked as an Electrical Engineer in the Electricity Supply and Distribution Industry in a number of foreign countries, particularly Zambia in Central Africa and Saudi Arabia in The Middle East.

For the last 22 years Bill has been a Franchisee of McDonalds Restaurants and presently owns and operates six McDonalds Restaurants on Tyneside where he employs approximately 450, mainly young and very hard working adults.

He has been a committed and enthusiastic Community Governor of Furrowfield Special School in Gateshead for over three years and plays an active part in assisting our Chair of Governors and Headteacher in achieving the best possible education for our students.

Councillor Michael Hood – School Governor

Michael was elected to Gateshead Council in 2008 and had the honour of being Mayor in 2010-11. He worked as a Printer for most of his working life before becoming a Support Worker for people with learning disabilities. His last employment was with local cancer charity FACT (Fighting All Cancers Together) where he was involved with fundraising and promoting the charity in the area. He is a board member of The Gateshead Housing Company. Michael has also joined the governing body at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. In his spare time he watches Gateshead FC.