

# Portway Governors: personal biographies

Updated January 2019



**Leading  
Learning Trust**

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<b>Name of Portway Primary School Governor</b>	<b>Personal biography</b>
<b>Jenni Rhodes</b> (Trust appointed governor - Chair)	Jenni Rhodes has been a governor at Portway since 2014. She lives locally and her children attend the school. Jenni works in Higher Education where she manages a team working in academic policy making, governance and quality assurance. She has previously held voluntary roles on the Portway PTA and Newham NCT steering committees.
<b>Suzanne Hsu</b> (Trust appointed governor - Vice Chair; Leading Learning Trust trustee)	Suzanne Hsu has been a community / co-opted governor at Portway since 2008 and is currently Vice Chair. She has a law degree and an MBA and has worked in law and finance for 20 years. Suzanne now works in the health-care sector, as a self-employed psychotherapist.
<b>Emma Nicholls</b> (Executive Head teacher - Leading Learning Trust; Leading Learning Trust trustee)	Emma Nicholls has 26 years teaching experience and she has been Head teacher of Selwyn Primary School since 2007. Under Emma's leadership, the school's Ofsted assessment has improved from 'satisfactory' in 2007 to 'outstanding' in 2014. She is a Local Leader of Education and trained Ofsted inspector. In February 2015 she was commissioned by Newham Council to support Portway Primary School, which led to the formation of the Leading Learning Trust in May 2016.
<b>Jacqui Waine</b> (Head teacher - Portway; Leading Learning Trust trustee)	Jacqui Waine has 24 years teaching experience. In her previous role she was Head of Teaching School at Fairlawn and Haseltine Primary Schools in Lewisham, both 'outstanding' schools. In addition to developing successful initial teacher training; leadership development across a number of schools and leading school-to-school support, Jacqui was project lead for a school based two-year project with the London Schools Excellence Fund to improve maths across 13 schools. In September 2015 she became Headteacher of Portway Primary School.



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<p><b>Mukesh Gunamel</b> (Trust appointed governor; Head of the Leading Learning Trust FARM Committee)</p>	<p>Mukesh Gunamal has been a governor at Selwyn School since 1996. Until 2007 he was a parent governor and is now a co-opted governor. He has previously served as the chair of governors, and was Selwyn’s representative at the Newham Governors’ Forum Association (affiliated to the National Governors’ Association), as well as a numeracy link governor. He is currently Chair of the Finance Committee. Mukesh is keen to carry on contributing to the schools’ development and to help ensure that all the children are able to maximise their potential. He believes in effective communication between parents, governors and the schools. Mukesh is an accountant by background and works for an international firm of accountants. He has also previously worked in industry and commerce.</p>
<p><b>Dan Genn</b> (Staff governor)</p>	<p>Dan Genn joined Portway Primary School in September 2017 as an Assistant Headteacher. He has rich experience of driving school improvement, having previously carried out leadership roles in schools that are undergoing transformation. He has a special interest in whole-school assessment. As Portway’s Assessment Leader, he is particularly interested in developing systems that vigorously inform teachers’ planning, ensuring that data has an immediate impact on teaching and learning across the school.</p>
<p><b>Anisa Hakim</b> (Co-opted governor)</p>	<p>Anisa Hakim has served as a governor at Portway since 2014. Having previously worked as a qualified primary school teacher (and currently on a career break), she has a deep understanding of the education system and is aware of the limits/challenges that the school faces.</p>
<p><b>Martina Jones</b> (Co-opted governor)</p>	<p>Martina Jones is a parent governor at Portway. She is an assistant head teacher at Upton Cross and brings a detailed knowledge of education and educational improvement.</p>
<p><b>Richard Duffy</b> (Parent governor) – RESIGNED - 03 October 2018</p>	<p>Richard Duffy has been a parent governor at Portway since 2015. He is a Children’s Services Commissioner and brings a knowledge of child protection issues.</p>



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<p><b>Vanessa Powell</b> (Trust appointed governor)</p>	<p>Vanessa Powell was appointed to the governing body in June 2018. She has worked in the university sector since 2002, holding roles at University College London, Imperial College London and currently at St George’s University of London, where Vanessa has been the Director of Education Operations since November 2018. In this position, she is responsible for ensuring the coordination, development and operation of professional services for education and student experience across the university, developing strategies and processes in support of the university’s strategic plan. Vanessa holds an MBA in Higher Education Management, awarded by the Institute of Education.</p>
<p><b>Ian Creppy</b> (Parent governor)</p>	<p>Ian is a Parent Governor and has a daughter in year 4 at Portway Primary School. Ian is originally from Ghana, where he first became involved in education via the National Service Programme, through which he supported children at school in disadvantaged, rural communities. On return to the capital, Ian then taught in a primary school for a year, before embarking on a career in banking. Since coming to the UK in 2004 to study at the London Metropolitan University, Ian has worked in a variety of industries and is currently working for Guarding UK Limited. Ian brings to the Governor role a strong desire to help every child at Portway reach their potential and is particularly interested in helping new arrivals to school and to the UK.</p>

