



Mrs A Hayes  
Gillamoor CE School  
Main Street  
Gillamoor  
York, YO62 7HX  
Tel 01751 431643  
[www.gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk)

*First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain.*

Dear parents and guardians,

20 October 2022

I am writing to introduce myself as the new chair of governors of Gillamoor School, following my election to this role at the full governor's board meeting held on 27 September 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding work of my predecessor, Jane Harper, who has led the governing board with skill, patience and dedication for many years since initially joining the board as a parent governor. She has been a tireless advocate for the benefits of a small school education in the rural environment that we call home and an enthusiastic presence at school celebrations, community events, and meetings with a range of public bodies. Jane has decided that now is the right time to focus on her business interests, but she remains on the governing board as an invaluable source of wisdom and guidance. Her contribution to the development of Gillamoor School has been immense.

I am also pleased to introduce Lindsey Roberts, who assumes the role of vice-chair. Lindsey is an experienced teacher of English who has worked in the international, independent and state secondary school sectors and currently teaches at Malton School. She has a particular interest in supporting reading and literacy development across the curriculum and will continue to bring her expertise and insight as a parent governor to the work of monitoring the developing Gillamoor curriculum.

Like Lindsey, I come to the role of chair of governors with a background in education. Having begun my classroom career in London in the first state academy school in the country, I relocated to Ryedale a decade ago to take up a post in the independent senior boarding sector. I have served as an external English assessment advisor to the exams regulator OFQUAL since 2012, and currently work at Ampleforth College as head of English and head of upper sixth. I am keen to build on the good work of the governing board over the past academic year in supporting the headteacher and the Gillamoor staff body in their mission to provide an inspiring and enriching educational experience for all the children of this community.

I hope you will continue to support the staff and governors in their endeavours this academic year and I look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Vowles