

Gavin Sweet

Why did you want to be a governor?

The opportunity came out of the blue but I was really pleased to be able to offer my time and energy to something as important as primary school, where I believe all the most important life skills are learned, including for my own children who have just started at Talbot.

Are you going to stay for a long or a short time?

I would hope to stay at least four years which is the normal period a governor volunteers for, provided I'm still making a valuable contribution. If I'm still being useful I'll stay a bit longer! The governors committee is essentially a voluntary team, it needs continuity from year to year to understand the school and best support it, but it also needs fresh ideas and new skills sometimes.

Have you had any previous experience?

I've not been a school governor before, but I've worked as an employee and consultant in both large and small companies, sitting on committees and working across diverse groups of people. I think this experience has taught me how to deal pragmatically with all sorts of different situations and challenges, including challenging the status quo.

Do you have any experience with children?

As a dad, uncle, neighbour, brother and son, yes! My own children are five and two years old, and they and their friends teach me new things every day. The one thing I know is that you don't know it all as a grown up!

Do you come from a different country?

No, I was born right here in Leeds, in St. James, and most of my family is still very local. Over the years though I have lived and travelled all over the world, including working in Zambia, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

Questions supplied by the School Council