

Hi! I'm Beth Visser and I'm one of the newest Co-opted Governors at Maryland. I live round the corner from the school, but grew up just over the river in Eltham and have always lived in London. I have three fantastic boys; one in Reception and twins who regularly attend the Children's Centre.

Since leaving university I've worked in several corporate and charity roles, developing a varied skillset in communications and marketing through work in responsible business, website design and even several years in feature film production!

I have a passion for all things digital. Technology is changing the way we live at an exponential rate, and I think it's incredibly important to not only prepare our children for this, but also to understand it ourselves as parents. Helping kids understand online safety, and the fact that everything we do online creates a 'digital self', is something I think is really important. The recent online safety training at Maryland was fantastic - if you missed it check out www.net-aware.org.uk to find out more about the apps your kids use. Also, LSE has recently launched some research on how children themselves understand privacy online, which I am following keenly.

Maryland has done brilliantly in becoming a Google School and using apps to enhance children's learning, and I'm excited about the plans to expand the school's technological capabilities through the new media room and provide tablets for all classes.

Every one of the governors has a unique skillset that they bring to the board. We use our knowledge, skills and experience to both support the school but also challenge it when necessary. I like to think of the role as that of a 'critical friend' – one who has the best interests of the children as the basis of their decisions but is also empowered to suggest positive change when it's needed.

I look forward to supporting our brilliant school and helping in any way I can to ensure the huge success of every single pupil.

Beth