

## **Stephen Baird-Parker**

My name is Stephen Baird-Parker and I joined the governors of Wyre Forest School in early 2016. I have lived in Kidderminster since 1998 and came here to be Production Director of Georgian Carpets Ltd.

I am married to Pennie, and we are both retired teachers. We have one daughter who is a solicitor for the government. My son Matthew died in a kayaking accident in 2013.

Sadly, Georgian closed down and I decided to become a teacher. I was the oldest member of my PGCE group but went on to teach ICT first at Hagley and then at Wolverley where I became Head of ICT. When I moved on I became a teacher at the Forest Oak PRU and thoroughly enjoyed helping students who had been excluded from mainstream to gain success in their GCSEs. I then spent 2 years working in the Medical Education Team with students who were unable to attend school through illness.

I now do some work as a photographer and my main passion is nature photography.

After retiring I was asked if I would like to join the governors of WFS. Having thoroughly enjoyed my time in special education this seemed to be a great way to keep in touch, especially with 25 years in business and then my teaching experience. I am used to managing and organising both people and budgets so I felt that my skills are of direct use as a governor.

I am a member of the Finance committee and have link governor responsibility for Pupil Premium and Children who are Looked After. This means that I audit the school's special responsibility to these groups of students, ensuring that direct funding for them is correctly spent and that they thrive at least equally well to all other students at WFS. So far I am amazed at the progress that the new school has made in such a short time.

What I particularly like about WFS is that a visit is always uplifting. I see a committed and happy staff working to improve children's futures with enormous dedication. I also appreciate the general quietness and calming atmosphere of the school which lends itself to helping the children enjoy their learning.