

## **Brenda Lines**

I am proud to be the Chairperson of Wyre Forest School Governors. The School puts the needs of the pupils/students first and that fits in with my personal ethos towards education. All of the Staff at the school do an amazing job every day and the pupils/students are a credit to the school.

I was born in Lancashire on a dairy farm and I went to a 5 to 15-year-old local school until I went to Notre Dame Grammar School in Blackburn in the early sixties.

When I left school, I went to Bangor University, where I graduated with honours in Agriculture. I always said I would never want to be a teacher or have anything to do with schools for that matter!

After I graduated, I worked for City Bank Trust in their Systems Department and used to write the company operating procedures for the Money Shops.

In the late 70s I went to live in Kenya and I loved it. While there, I worked for Richard Leakey, organising courses for museum guides and helped to develop the first computerised records of the Leakey family fossils. In the last two years there, I worked for the Undugu Society of Kenya in and around Mathari Valley and was known as Njoki (the one who returns).

In 1984, when I had a family of four children, I began to think that I wanted to be able to say I was a ..... – in other words, I felt the need to have a profession – yes, I decided to try teaching. I went to The University of Wolverhampton where I graduated with Distinction with a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. I totally fell in love with the job and entered the profession in my late thirties. I taught Biology up to A Level and became a Senior Leader at a local comprehensive school.

The last two years of my teaching career I was seconded to a Short Stay School as Headteacher – in those two years the school went from Ofsted rated 'Notice to Improve' to 'Good'. I am very proud of this achievement and I retired feeling I had been so lucky to have a job that I loved.