

Catherine Hester

I was brought up in a little village in North Yorkshire, where my parents still live. I attended our small village C of E primary school and have very fond memories of taking flowers to the church on Ascension Day, Harvest Festival services and all of those fabulous old hymns like Lord of the Dance! I am delighted that our children will have some of those same experiences from their school days in Purley.

I went to university in London and then worked with children with special needs for three years, before training as a primary teacher. Once qualified, I worked in an outer London primary school for three years before leaving to do two year's voluntary work with street children in Tanzania.

When I came back from Tanzania I joined Oxfam, and worked there in a number of different roles for 12 years. Throughout this time I had the privilege of meeting many fabulous people from all over the world, and learning first-hand how much change is possible, even in the most extreme circumstances, when people are given equal opportunities.

I currently work for a charity called the White Ribbon Alliance as Deputy Director. We work with passionate campaigners all over the world to ensure that women are safe during pregnancy and childbirth. It is an amazing organisation and one I am very proud to be a part of. There is no more important role in life, to my mind, than to be a parent and I dream of all mothers having access to the care and support when giving birth that we enjoy in this country.

I am delighted to be serving as a Governor to Purley Primary School, and to be part of taking us through this exciting time of transition.