

Nazmunnisha Ismail- Principal



I am proud to serve as the Headteacher at Hillside Primary School and have been teaching for over 20 years. The fulfilment I gain from working with children is truly unmatched. Seeing young people grow in confidence, overcome challenges, and flourish through education is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role. Helping children to realise their potential and become successful, happy members of society is both a privilege and a passion.

One of the things I value most about Hillside is the wonderfully diverse community we serve. Our families, children and staff bring a rich range of experiences, cultures and perspectives, and I believe we all have so much to learn from one another. This diversity enriches our school and helps us prepare children to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

When I am not in school, I enjoy spending with family and time outdoors. Long walks and hikes across the beautiful Yorkshire moors help me to relax, recharge and appreciate the natural world.

Luke Ricketts – LAB Member



I am employed by South Pennine Academies as HR Director and have over 20 years' experience supporting educational settings. I'm from Huddersfield and as a dad myself I understand the role of education in shaping young people's lives. I'm especially interested in supporting Safeguarding and Mental Health

Simon Thomson – Chair & Parent LAB Member



I am the Chair and a Parent Member of the Local Academy Board at Hillside with one child in Year 2, and an older child who was at Hillside and who is now at Newsome Academy. I work as a data scientist and manager at a large information services company. I have a range of experience across strategy, people and project management, and data analysis. Except for a break of a year and a half, I have been a governor at Hillside (and its predecessor school before academisation) since 2017, and have served as vice chair of governors and as chair of the standards and effectiveness committee.

Jennifer Isaacs – Vice Chair & Parent LAB Member



Originally from the Staffordshire Moorlands, I moved to Huddersfield to study Music at the University of Huddersfield in 2005. I was struck by the huge amount of community music that Huddersfield encompasses and decided to make Newsome our home. I currently work as an Area Manager and Woodwind teacher for Musica Kirklees. Within this role I also manage their Inclusion Projects and I champion accessible music for all. I have organised

and performed in many large scale local musical events across Kirklees (including The Newsome Big Sing) and value the role music has to play in our community and schools.

I am passionate about the transformative affect music can have on our lives and aim to provide an opportunity for every young learner to be involved in music and performance during their time in school, regardless of their circumstances.

I have one daughter in school at the moment and I can already see the positive impact her time at Hillside has had on her life, I look forward to supporting the staff and students at Hillside Academy over the next 4 years.

Michelle Hope – LAB Member



I currently work as the Corporate Planning and Coordination Manager in the Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning Service at Kirklees Council. I have over 15 years of experience working in the local government sector, having worked in a range of corporate planning, strategy, policy and public sector partnership roles. I have managerial experience of teams, people and functions. I have experience of policy and strategy development, programme and project management, research and analysis, engagement, communications, governance, decision making and commissioning.

I am also a parent to two young children who are also in primary school - and I am passionate about the importance of a child's educational setting for their mental, physical and emotional development and overall wellbeing.

Adam Hill-LAB Member



Adam Hill is a qualified primary teacher and experienced school leader. In addition to his local teaching experience, he worked for nine years at international schools in Hong Kong and China. After returning to the UK, he established his award-winning education business, Launchpad STEM, to support schools, organisations and families with STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) through STEM classes, events and consulting.

Emma Keating-Staff LAB Member



I am a HLTA at Hillside Primary School and joined originally when the school was Stile Common Juniors in 2006. I moved to Huddersfield in 1998 to study English Studies at the University of Huddersfield and have lived in and around the area ever since. As a parent myself, as well as working at Hillside Primary School, I understand how the school is an important part of the community and how we all need to work together to ensure each of our children achieve their potential.

