



# St Luke's School

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

## Governor Profile – Judith Chamberlain

Governor Role: Co-opted

Term of Office: 4 years

Relevant Business Interests: None

Staff Connection: None



I have recently retired as headteacher of Lakeside School in Welwyn Garden City. Lakeside is a special school for pupils with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties, and autism.

Starting as a teacher I was at Lakeside for over 30 years and head for 22. I am very proud of the fact that during my headship we achieved 5 Outstanding Ofsted grades, were accredited several times by the National Autistic Society, commended by the Intensive Interaction Institute, were a centre of excellence for the MOVE programme, were recently awarded the Inclusion Mark and consistently achieved the ICTmark. Above all else I am most proud of the overwhelmingly positive responses from our parents to the work of the school. That response and the dedication and commitment of the staff team were what made Lakeside a very special place.

During my time at Lakeside I sat on many local authority committees and went through several Special School Reviews. I sat on my local DSPL group from its inception and was chair of the Special Heads group on several occasions. I was also a founder member and latterly chair of the Federation of Leaders in Special Education ( FLSE) an eastern region network of heads of special schools.

Since retiring in August 2018 I have become the chair of committee for a local pre-nursery which operates as a not for profit charity. This has been an interesting new venture and I am finding ways to use my experience – but also having to learn new skills.

I am still getting used to retirement and waiting to see what life may bring. This is being helped by the arrival of a new grandson – now 7 months old. He and his 6 year old brother find ways to keep me busy.