

Woodville school governor Wendy retires after 36 years

By rhea_turner | Posted: December 06, 2016



A woman who 'has been at the heart' of a South Derbyshire school for the past 36 years, is hanging up her clipboard and retiring as a school governor.

Wendy Coxall, 74, of Midway, first started as a governor at Granville Sports College back in 1980, after her brother-in law, who was a councillor, asked her if she would stand.

Nearly four decades later, Mrs Coxall said she has 'thoroughly enjoyed her time there' and she will really miss the school and everyone in it.

The mother-of-four, said: "When I first started I shared my time between Granville and Stanton Primary School. I just thought I would

give it a go, but it has been so enjoyable and it has gone so fast!

"I absolutely love Granville. The school is so friendly and I have always felt like a part of it. Everybody is really nice and the children are so friendly and polite.

"There has never been a time that I didn't want to be there and I am going to miss working with the governors terribly."

Wendy previously worked as a caretaker at Elmsleigh Primary School in Swadlincote for more than 10 years, and would often volunteer at the school, listening to children read

Wendy's caring nature has also seen her foster children and now those who know Wendy and have worked with her through the years, have told of their sadness that she is retiring.

Mr David Gaskin, chairman of governors at **Granville Sports College**, said: "Wendy's service is a 'shining example of commitment to serving the school and community.

"We all appreciate how much of her time she has freely given over the last four decades. Even recently she attended all meetings and still volunteered her time to come into school to offer her support. On behalf of all governors I would like to sincerely thank Wendy for this incredible contribution and wish her a very well deserved retirement from this role."

In her time Wendy has worked with five headteachers and even started the schools young entertainers' society.

Jo Kingswood, headteacher of Granville Sports College said Wendy will be missed.

Mrs Kingswood said: "Wendy has been a most reliable governor. She very rarely misses a meeting and is always willing to assist the school in her role.

"She has sat on disciplinary panels, supported the appointment of staff and always supported school functions. At her heart has always been the pupils of Granville and she has been steadfast in ensuring the decisions are made in their best interest.

"Wendy has always been professional in her role, reliable and supportive. She will be missed."

Wendy's daughter Becki Coxall, 42, said her mum deserves a medal for all she has done in the community.

Miss Coxall, of **Swadlincote**, said: "She has done so much for the community it is unbelievable. She was a governor while her children went to school there. She is amazing. She just never stops. She is so caring and the school and all of the people she has met in her time there mean so much to her. It is great her hard work has been recognised. "

So just what will Wendy do to fill the time now that she is retired?

She said: "I don't know what I am going to do with my time, I will need to take up a hobby. If it were up to me I would stay for another term but my husband is unwell and I don't drive so it would mean dragging him out to take me up there.

"I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, and I will probably get more involved at the allotments. I am sure they will still see me at the school from time to time, it has been a part of my life for so long.