

Welcome to Dame Catherine's



Top (left to right): Elly, Maddie, Josh, Chris
Bottom (left to right): Lorna, Bria, Jane, Fay



DAME CATHERINE
HARPUR'S SCHOOL

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are delighted that you've decided to visit our school. We find that the best way to get to know us is by visiting and chatting to staff and parents as this can help to find out as much as you can about us.

Please see below a little about our staff so that you can find who it is you're looking for.

Lorna



Lorna Harvey: headteacher.

Lorna has been headteacher at Dame Catherine's since 2018, having worked in a broad range of educational roles prior to joining the school. This included many years as secondary Head of Languages and working for a Local Authority as a school adviser before moving into primary school headship roles. Her personal experiences as a parent of 2 adopted children have led her to have a far better insight into how schools need to consider the specific needs of individual children. Her involvement in language learning and international links work means she has experienced school systems in other countries. This also provided the chance to develop lots of cross-curricular projects with different aged children. Lorna loves working at Dame Catherine's as it provides an opportunity to be innovative and work with like-minded and creative people – and witness the impact this has on children's learning. It also means that she learns something new every day! Her varied experiences have undoubtedly contributed to her choosing to lead a school which looks towards 'a different way' with the flexibility to champion children being themselves.

Apart from travel, visiting new places and learning languages, Lorna also enjoys playing the flute and the piano.

Fay Younger (3-4 year olds)

Fay has worked at Dame Catherine's running the nursery room since January 2000, so you will find lots of families to talk to whose children have been in her care over the years. She gets so excited by having new little ones in our setting. She lives in Melbourne with her dog Mani, loves the outdoors, music, being creative and spending time with my friends and family.

Elly (4-5 year olds)

Elly qualified as a teacher in 2009 and has taught children across the primary age range. She joined Dame Catherine's in spring 2021, working as a job share with Maddie. She has a passion for science and the outdoors which led her to study Environmental Biology at university and she loves to inspire children's curiosity about the natural world in her teaching. Her other interests are a rather eclectic mix, ranging from dance and music (singing/trumpet), through to photography and cricket, although most of her free time is spent entertaining her young daughter!

Maddie (4-5 year olds)

Maddie is originally from York, although she has lived in Derbyshire for the past 11 years. She joined Dame Catherine's in spring 2021, working as a job share with Elly. She studied psychology at university. Her interests include sewing (including selling some of the clothes she makes!), baking/cooking and listening to music. She also enjoys travel although she hasn't done much of that recently! She has a young daughter and prior to taking time out to have her daughter she worked in the Early Years team and Key Stage 1 class in another school. She is interested in outdoor learning and art/design and just like to get stuck into things.

Jane Dawn: office manager.

Jane joined Dame Catherine's when her boys were here, so she knows the school inside out and from many different perspectives. Whilst they left several years ago, her role has grown and she is not only manages our office, but supports children during lunchtimes, welcomes children into school and teaches music too. It is little wonder that her boys went on to create a band, given her enthusiasm for music and their creative start in life at Dame Catherine's.

Bria Adlington: Teaching Assistant. Bria works part time and splits her time between all groups in school. She's been working in our school for 6 years, having also done her training here. She even came here as a child, so has a long connection with the school. She is the first in the queue to join in with anything which looks like fun – including mud sliding. She enjoys joining in with science experiments, playing rounders and netball and loves a good sing a long and a quiz. She is a great person to talk to in the playground, acting as our parent liaison in terms of fundraising and organising social and school events.

Chris Wright: HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant.) Chris has been with us since January 2020 and spends a lot of his time teaching our older children. We make sure that he is able to spend some time with our pre-school children though, who often come and seek him out. He is also around to support them at break and lunchtime (often literally if they are learning to skate.) Chris is our history specialist and ensures that history is brought to life at Dame Catherine's. He is a talented writer, and a keen actor, and we consider ourselves very lucky that we have such a creative person to produce our school films and plays. Drama has gone from strength to strength over the past couple of years!

Joshua Price: Teaching Assistant. Josh is the newest member of our team, having joined us in September 2021 and is in every day with a couple of half days out to study for his qualifications with Nottingham College. He works mainly in our rabbits group (4-7 year olds) and does some 1:1 in school. Josh brings a background in art to the school and helps us with ideas for every group. He is always smiley and cheerful.