

Sujata Smith – Community Governor and Safeguarding Link Governor

I am a retired teacher, having worked in the post-16 sector for 24 years. I am a keen advocate of vocational qualifications and have first-hand experience of how these can steer a career path. I am married with two adult sons who both benefited from a sixth form college education.

My background is in Biomedical Science and my first career was in clinical & biomedical research. I progressed into laboratory management during my nine years at Leicester University.

I went into teaching as a second career at the age of 33, teaching Biology, Medical & Applied Science in the post-16 sector in Nuneaton, and I was able to share experience from my first career with my students. Whilst teaching, I became a Curriculum Leader and then moved into the senior leadership team, leading Student Support, Careers and Specialist Support, and taking on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead for the college. I continued in this position for five years until I retired in 2023. My experience has given me a good understanding of the pressures facing young people and their welfare concerns.

I am very active in retirement, filling my time with a combination of volunteering, outdoor pursuits, hobbies and socialising.