

Trustee Profiles



Paul Himple (Member and Chair of Trustees)

I have more than 30 Years HR experience, working within a range of industries and leadership roles, specialising in employee relations, employment law and dispute resolution. Following a corporate career in the public sector and Food Retail, I have been working as a freelance HR consultant for 12 Years, supporting both corporate clients and small to medium size businesses with their HR needs.

Professional Qualifications:

MSc in Marketing

Diploma in Labour Studies

Chartered Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development.



Gary Evans (Trustee)

- Led Ferndale Primary from being judged as Special Measures by the borough in late 2011 to good with Outstanding features two years later.
- Leadership and Management rated Outstanding by Ofsted 2014
- Ferndale school received recognition from MPs about its work with raising achievement for Disadvantaged Pupils.
- Strategic board member for Swindon Teaching School, responsible for schools to school support
- Chair of Admissions and Place Planning Committee
- Built new skills based governing body rated outstanding by Ofsted 2014
- Part of Only three primary heads in South of England invited to consult on new Ofsted framework
- Included in Hamilton Education Top 100 Most Improved Schools 2014
- Coached Middle Leaders from three schools through the Leading from The Middle program
- Worked with National Literacy and Numeracy strategies as leading teacher and supported teachers new to year 6 across London borough of Redbridge.

- Highest rating after presenting at South West ICT conference two years running.
- Over the past fifteen years I have worked in a range of primary schools from London to Swindon in schools graded Special Measures to Outstanding.

Professional Qualifications:

National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)

Jan Hobbs (Trustee)

Until my retirement in 2010 I was a primary school teacher in Swindon. Latterly I was Deputy Head of Lethbridge Junior School for eight years followed by 10 years as Deputy Head of Lawn Primary School. In both schools I was a staff governor and played a significant role in the amalgamation of the Infant and Junior Schools. I have served as Community Governor of Gorse Hill Primary Academy (until 1st April 2016). I am a grandmother and enjoy volunteering in my grandsons' school.

Professional Qualifications

Certificate of Education

Mark Rachael (Trustee)

I'm 45, married, with two children and live in Abbey Meads. My children both attended Abbey Meads Community Primary and this is where I first became a Governor ten years ago. I was vice chair until recently and my focus was on the finance aspects of governance.

Although my youngest left the school two years ago I have continued to actively serve on the AM Governing body and have also recently joined the Blue Kite board.

I have worked in various Finance roles in my career. I started in an Accountancy practice, where I did my training, and in later years have been working in industry.

I'm currently employed at WH Smith where I am responsible for all aspects of the WH Smith Ireland accounts production and integration of our overseas entities into the UK's books. I believe I have a good eye for detail, enjoy reconciliations and getting things right.

I enjoy being a governor and providing support and challenge to the SLT whilst ensuring that we are being mindful of developing our citizens of the future both academically and socially.



Carl Harris (Trustee)

Carl is an Executive Director at The Chartered Institute for IT - a professional body and registered charity. Carl is a Chartered IT Professional (CITP) with more than 20 years' experience across a range of domains including IT, digital transformation, operations and marketing.

Between 2011 and 2017, Carl was executive lead for IT, Customer Service and Operations functions covering circa 120 people. He was responsible for leading the delivery of technology strategy and operational capability to meet overall business strategy and objectives, including risk management and regulatory compliance. Accountability included planning, directing and managing the £4M operating budget and significant investment programmes.

Since 2017, Carl has been executive lead for Brand and Marketing. He has responsibility for leading on the translation of business strategy into a programme of awareness and engagement activity. Responsibilities also include development of the Institute's brand, overseeing all marketing activity across the Institute and delivering digital services to the Institute's members

Pauline Miller (Trustee)

Pauline Miller is a very experienced School Improvement Adviser who since 2011 has worked with leadership teams within a group of primary schools, undertaking a wide range of activities including supporting leaders in their improvement journeys, self-evaluation, monitoring and evaluation processes.

From 2007 to 2011 she was a Senior School Improvement Adviser with lead National Strategies responsibility for advising local authorities and primary schools in the South West region; supporting the schools causing concern programme including the development and full integration regionally of the Primary SIP programme.

She also led a national project supporting schools moving from 'Good to Great' which developed effective school to school partnerships, and captured the learning for national dissemination.

Previously, Pauline was a Senior Adviser with Swindon Borough Council having responsibility for the aligning of support so that it had maximum impact and supported significant change within the LA.

Pauline was previously a primary teacher and a deputy headteacher, teaching throughout the primary age range. She has also worked in a variety of LA's including South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire supporting school improvement.



Hayley Brown

I have over 18 years Business Management experience, working across the Early Years, Children's Centre, Primary and Secondary Sectors. Experience also includes working within Maintained Schools, Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts.

I have many years' experience in team leadership and development and accept and adapt to change comfortably.

Significant achievements:

- Selected as a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE)
- The operational conversion of 7 maintained schools to a MAT
- The smooth transition of 7 school support teams to a centrally operating service/team
- The transition and induction of further 3 schools in to a MAT
- Policy and procedure harmonisation
- Supported a number of peers through the process of Academy conversion and MAT matters
- Administrative system review and improvement
- Several sensitive large staffing restructures