

# Trustee Profiles

The Blue Kite Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, c/o Ferndale Primary and Nursery School, Wiltshire Avenue, Swindon SN2 1NX Company Number 09889819



## **Gary Evans, Chief Executive Officer**

Gary is a very experienced school leader. Over the past fifteen years he has worked in a range of primary schools from London to Swindon in schools graded Special Measures to Outstanding.

As Headteacher of Ferndale Primary he led them from being judged as Special Measures by the Local Authority to an Ofsted grade of Good with Outstanding features two years later. This resulted in the school being included in the top 100 most improved schools and Leadership and Management being rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Gary also received recognition from MPs regarding his work in raising achievement for Disadvantaged Pupils.

In 2016 Ferndale Primary received an award for highest primary school achievement in Swindon, this followed a national award for Children's Progress, putting the school in the top 10% of the country.

Gary has led school improvement initiatives across Swindon for many years and was recognised for his effective School to School support in 2017 with an award. He has also worked with National Literacy and Numeracy strategies as leading teacher and supported teachers new to year 6 across the London Borough of Redbridge.

Gary has chaired and is currently an active member of Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers. Since 2020 he has also served as a member of the Ofsted steering group for the South West region. He has also been involved with presenting at the South West ICT conference where he received the highest feedback rating for two years running.

Gary became the CEO of The Blue Kite Academy Trust when it was formed in November 2015 and has been instrumental in its success and growth.

### **Professional Qualifications:**

National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)



### **Pauline Miller - Chair of Trustees, Chair of Education Standards and Strategy Committee**

Pauline 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.

#### **Professional Qualifications**

BA Politics and Law

Post Graduate Certificate in Education



### **Paul Himple – Chair of People and Culture Committee**

Paul has more than 35 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, Paul has been working as a freelance HR consultant for 16 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 and Development.

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## **Steven Bishop**

Steven has more than forty years experience in financial services and is currently a partner in a leading risk advisory firm. He graduated from Oxford with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and spent the first half of his career working as a stockbroker in London and New York. He subsequently worked in investment management as Chief Operations Officer, first of a large investment boutique and, most recently, a start-up partnership.

Since 1995 Steven has been a governor of three independent senior schools, and is a trustee of the Marlborough College Foundation. Steven also serves as an adult mentor at the Clement James Trust in North Kensington



## **Carl Harris – Vice Chair of Trustees, Chair of Risk, Audit Health and Safety and Premises Committee**

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

### **Professional Qualifications**

Chartered Information Technology Professional (CITP)

Professional Member of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT (MBCS)

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### **Andrew Miller – Chair of Finance Committee**

Andrew is a highly experienced education leader with over 25 years of senior management service in the further education sector. His career involved 17 years as a Principal and Chief Executive in two Further Education (FE) colleges. Andrew has a successful track record in terms of improving outcomes for students, culture change, financial sustainability and improvements in a college's reputation in the community it serves.

Until retirement in 2016 Andrew was Principal and Chief Executive of Swindon College - a general FE college with 600 staff and 11,000 students that supported the economic growth and skills agenda for Swindon and the wider region. The college also had 500 Higher Education students and 1000 Apprentices. Before that he was Principal and CE of Kidderminster FE College in Worcestershire.

Andrew passionately believes in the value of education and equality of access for all children and young people to enable them to have the best possible start in their lives.

#### **Professional Qualifications**

BA Economics

Certificate in Management Studies

Post Graduate Certificate in Education



### **Alec Hunt**

Alec served in the Royal Air Force as a commissioned officer for 24 years and with BAE Systems for 15 years and has been involved within and out with the Royal Air Force in the development, delivery and management of training for 20 years.

Alec has been a Special Needs School and Specialist post-16 to 25 Special Needs Institution Governor and Chair of Governors since August 2012. His focus is on education and in particular special education that will enable the development of young people through ensuring high standards and performance from BKAT education provisions that will improve the life chances and outcomes that young people with SEND deserve.

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## Neil Uzzell

Neil is a Chartered Building Control Surveyor currently working for a Private Approved Inspector across the Thames Valley and Wiltshire. He is also a company director of a small business employing 12 people. Prior to this Neil worked in local government for a total of 28 years for Cotswold District Council and Reading Borough Council as a Building Control and Fire Safety Manager.

Neil has been a School Governor since 1998 which has included being a Chair of Governors at three different schools in Swindon, Catherine Wayte Primary School, Ferndale Infant School and Ferndale Primary Community School. Neil was also the Chair of Ferndale Infant School when they were successfully amalgamated in 2008 with Ferndale Primary School.

### Professional Qualifications

Full Corporate Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS) Post Graduate Diploma in Management Studies BSc (Hons) in Building Surveying.



## Shelley Tomkins

Shelley has a diverse breadth of experience, from Safari Lodge and nature guiding to Logistics and Auditing. Returning to the UK in 2016, having spent 5 years working and travelling around Southern Africa, Shelley settled in the South of England. Attending a youth club during her teenage years, motivated Shelley to take on the running of a small village youth group in order to give back to the community that she now called home. Whilst running the group, Shelley was involved in planning activities for attendees aged between 11 and 18 years old, organised annual fundraising events and supported members with attaining their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Shelley also became an ambassador for other local charities - including the Bruce Trust (a canal boat management operator for those with additional needs).

Early in 2021, Shelley made a career move to join a Gloucestershire based firm of Accountants and began working closely with many Academies both for internal assurance and audit engagements. Having completed her chartered accountancy studies in August 2022, Shelley is keen to gain wider knowledge and experience both in support of her full-time role and to support BKAT. Shelley's focus is on ensuring that every child has access to the resources and support required in order to get the most out of their education and provide them with the most appropriate tools for their journey through life.

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## **Judith Randell-Sly**

Judith spent thirty-nine years in primary education, gaining experience teaching all year groups. In her career Judith was the lead teacher for science and technology. She was also deputy head teacher at Ferndale Junior School and then acting headteacher over the period of amalgamation with the Infant School.

For many years Judith was a staff governor at Ferndale Junior School and in retirement she joined the board of Gorse Hill Community Primary School, becoming the chair for several years. She was then invited to join the governing body of Ferndale Primary School.

When the Blue Kite Trust was formed, Judith became the first chair of the trust and then became the chair of the joint governing body for the two new schools opened by the trust, Badbury Park and William Morris, until two separate governing bodies were formed in July 2022.

Judith has a particular interest in equality in education and special educational needs.

### **Professional qualifications:**

Certificate of education

Batchelor of Education degree

National Professional Qualification for Headship



## **Rabina Munir**

Rabina is a Commercial Manager, with over 27 years of experience in public and private sector procurement. For the last three years she has worked in procurement within the education sector and that was her driver behind her interest in this role.

Since 2016 Rabina has been a committee member and voluntary worker for Swindon Children Without a Diagnosis (SCWAD) and has been a family member since 2009.

Rabina wants to make positive contributions to the education of children and their families and support local communities.

### **Professional Qualifications**

HND in Business and Finance.

Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS Level 4)

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