

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Members of the Academy Trust

Caroline Mathias

Member

Albert Leaf

Member (Chair)

Guy Currey

Member (Chair of Trustees)

Deborah Ramshaw

Member

June Kelly

Member

Matthew Turner

Member

Board of Trustees

Guy Currey

Parent, 2018

Chair of Trustees

Dr Jane Halpin

Parent, 2018

Vice Chair

Alison Logan

MA, 2010

Vice Chair, Chair SPC

Andrew Fowler

Principal, Ex-O

2019

Katie Barron

Staff

2021

Cllr Sheila Gallagher

Local Authority

2019

Andrew Mears

Parent

2021

Chris Smith

MA

2012

Heather McClean

MA

2020

Claire Gibson

Parent

2021

Joel Greenwell

MA

2020

Claire Godfrey

MA

2020

Louise Doran

MA

2021

Kevin Thompson

MA

2020

Members of the Academy Trust

All Members

Meets twice per year in October and March
Holds the Board to account, via the Chair, on its strategic objectives
Formally signs off on the Academy annual financial report
May appoint and remove Academy Trustees

Board of Trustees

All Trustees

Meets 4 times per year
Sets the strategic direction of the Trust and holds Academy leaders to account
Approves the Academy budget on recommendation of AMC
Appoints the Principal

Student Progress Committee

All Trustees

Meets 3 times per year
Monitors student progress, quality of education, attendance, behaviour

Academy Management Committee

All Trustees (exc. Staff)

Meets 3 times per year
Sets the Academy budget, monitors health & safety, staffing, safeguarding & premises

Principal's Performance Management & Senior Appointments Committee

Chair & Vice Chairs

Meets 2 times per year and as required
Monitors performance management of Principal. Recommends appointment of the Principal. Appoints the Deputy Principal

Disciplinary, Appeals & Complaints Committee

All Trustees (subject to training)

Meets as required
Reviews Principal's recommendations on Exclusions, hears disciplinary and grievance appeals, determines parental complaints

TRUSTEE PROFILES



Guy Currey

I joined the Board in 2018 as a parent Trustee. I have worked in local government for over 25 years in a range of economic development and regeneration roles, through which I have been reminded of the fundamental role education plays in preparing our young people for the future. I am currently Director of Invest North East. I have three children at the Academy. I have chaired of the Academy Management Committee and served as vice chair before becoming chair of the Board of Trustees in September 2021.



Alison Logan I joined the governing body in 2010, initially as a parent Trustee. My daughter attends the Academy and my two sons have now left to go to university. I have a degree in Education and Mathematics and am a qualified primary school teacher, training as a maths specialist (age range 8-12). I am also Chair at a City of Sunderland primary school where I have been a Trustee since 2001. I am treasurer of a local branch of a national charity which I set up years ago with a friend. I am chair of the Student Progress Committee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees.



Dr Jane Halpin

Originally from Cumbria, I have lived in the North East since attending medical school at Newcastle University. I have worked as a GP in the local area since 2002. I have two children at the Academy and am also a parent Trustee at Springwell Village Primary School. I have an interest and experience in safeguarding and mental health in respect of both adults and children. I have served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees since September 2021.



Andrew Fowler

I joined the Academy as Principal in June 2019. After a music degree at Exeter University, I worked as an accountant for 7 years. After retraining as a teacher, I taught in Warwickshire, Berkshire and then for 10 years at Wolsingham in County Durham. I was assistant headteacher at a high performing school in Cumbria before becoming headteacher at Dane Court Grammar School, an outstanding 11-18 school in Kent. I worked as Senior School Improvement Adviser in North Tyneside before joining Lord Lawson. I am completing a doctorate in educational assessment.



Andrew Mears

I was appointed parent governor in December 2021. I have lived in the local community for nearly 20 years and my daughter – Connie - is a student at Lord Lawson. I have spent my entire career based in the north east, but supporting customers across the globe with human resources and talent consultancy. In my spare time, I am an avid follower of rugby union, Newcastle United, and I exercise as much as I can.



Councillor Sheila Gallagher

I joined the Board in 2019 as the local authority appointed trustee. I am a member of the local authority as the Labour councillor for Lamesley ward, and a retired headteacher of an infant school. I was previously a Trustee at St Josephs' School in Birtley where I served as chair for several years.



Chris Smith

I joined the Board in 2012 and served as vice chair from 2016-18 and as chair from 2018-21. A solicitor by trade, I practised for 10 years in commercial litigation in Newcastle. Since 2013 I have been teaching law and establishing clinical legal education, first at the University of Sunderland and now at York St John University. Since 2018 I have served as a magistrate. I am studying a doctorate in education at Newcastle Uni. I have previously spent 6 years as a Special Constable with Northumbria Police. I am a governor of another large secondary school in York.



Katie Barron

I joined the Board in 2021 as a staff Trustee. I have worked as a teacher of English at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy since 2019 when I joined as a newly qualified teacher. I am passionate about making this school the best environment it can be for our students. This role has already given me a huge amount of insight into the work that goes towards creating a safe and welcoming environment for both students and staff.



Claire Godfrey

My family has just moved to the local area, with my eldest joining Lord Lawson in Yr9 in Sept 2019 from Thorpe Academy, and my daughters in Yr 3&4 on their way up! As a senior leader with responsibility for SEN and vulnerable learners, as well as pastoral lead, in a Newcastle primary school, I am passionate about making learning accessible for all and, as a mum of three, I am equally keen to make learning creative and interesting for everyone!



Heather McClean

I am a resident of Birtley and a mother of two children; one attending the Academy in year 7 and one at St. Joseph's Junior School on the way up. I am currently a Year 5 teacher at Carr Hill Primary (a Gateshead feeder school) with 15 years' experience where she was also previously a staff Trustee for many years.



Joel Greenwell

I'm a local resident, educated in Gateshead. After graduating in Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University, I joined the university's Student Recruitment team, which involved travelling across the country to enthuse young people about higher education. Since, I have worked for Teach First; I began recruiting graduates to start their career in teaching and then managed a team in this area. Recently I became Regional Manager, working with schools on the Early Career Framework.



Kevin Thompson I have successfully led private and public service operations in the Insurance, Telecommunications, Public, Software and Travel Sectors. With a finance and business education, I have operated at both strategic and tactical levels in fast moving sales and service environments within differing organisational cultures. I describe myself as a supportive leader with excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to build relationships and influence at all levels. I have one daughter at the school and another who will join in 2021.



Louise Doran

I joined the Board in 2021. I am a resident of Chester-Le-Street. As a successful business professional working in education for over 12 years, with both legal and HR experience, I would describe myself as a supportive team member, an excellent leader of operational services, with great communication skills and experience to support the continued success of the Academy.



Claire Gibson

I joined the Board in January 2022 as a parent governor.