

Our Board of Trustees 2022-2023

What are the roles and responsibilities of school trustees?

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Trustees serve a term of 4 years from the date of their election.

Philippa Whittington – Chair of Board of Trustees

Philippa is a Foundation Trustee originally appointed in 2003 by the Diocese. She is married with one son, 2 stepsons and 4 grandchildren and while now retired, spent 40 years working in the IT industry. She believes that her education was an important part of her life and sees her work as a Trustee as a way of repaying that to the community.

Miss Rebecca Byrne – Headteacher

I have been Headteacher at Clifton All Saints Academy for one year. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been entrusted with leading All Saints forward. My appointment at the school is even more special to me as I grew up in Henlow. I attended the local schools so am looking forward to giving back to the community where I spent my childhood. I hold a strong belief in the power of education to change children's lives and the right of every child to receive an excellent education. I am dedicated to building opportunities for students to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known well as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full. I put teaching and learning as well as safeguarding at the heart of everything I do and endeavour to give each child the best possible education. I am looking forward to meeting our families, getting to know our children and working with the staff in the terms and years ahead.

Reverend Caren Topley - Rector of Clifton, Haynes and Southill

I am the Rector for All Saints Church in this village. Part of my role is to be a Trustee for this church school. I have lived in the village for over twenty five years and my children were educated here. I feel privileged that I can give something back and support this community.

The Christian Values taught by the school have forged a strong link with the Church, Toddler Church and Messy church. We always look forward to the times when the school leads our worship or we share events together.

Carol Weller—Foundation Trustee and Vice Chair

I have lived in the village for circa 33 years and my younger daughter attended Clifton All Saints Academy and has very happy memories of her time there. I am married with two

daughters and two grandchildren, one of whom is in primary education. As I am now retired I wanted to contribute to Clifton community life and becoming a school Trustee seemed a very worthwhile way of doing this. My daughters attended Henlow Church of England Academy and during their time at the school I was a parent Trustee.

I spent the last 29 years of my career working within the public sector as a professionally qualified Procurement and Contracts Manager managing teams responsible for procurement and putting in place contracts for goods and services, which covered a diverse range of requirements. This involved communication with schools, council officers/departments and various private sector organisations. Part of my role involved the managing of suppliers; conducting contract negotiations; and overseeing contract performance.

Milton Guffogg – Member Trustee and Vice Chair

I have lived in the village for nearly 30 years, and have one son and two Grandsons. My eldest grandson attends Clifton and my youngest Woodlands, so have hands on knowledge of their experiences.

My career has been spent in Retail/Consumer in the UK and Europe, and have during the last 45 years ,run many well known Retail businesses as a Director/CRO and CEO.

In the last few years I have been the founder of a large UK based Private Equity company, and am currently the founder and CEO of a private Investment and Restructuring company focused on the Retail/Consumer in the UK and Europe, which invests in and turns around distressed Retail businesses.

Jean Peacock—Diocesan Trustee

I have been a Trustee at Clifton All Saints Academy for 7 years. I live in Clifton and I have a son, a daughter and 4 grandchildren 3 of whom are Primary School age.

I have spent all my working life in Education and I have taught a range of age groups in a variety of different Lower Schools in Bedfordshire. I spent the last 9 years of my working life as a Headteacher of a Lower School. After I retired I became a part time Link Tutor with the University of Bedfordshire supporting and advising trainee teachers.

I am now fully retired and I hope I can use my past experience to play an active and supportive part in the life of Clifton All Saints Academy as it moves forward to become a Primary School.

Richard Hook—Foundation Trustee

Richard's background is predominately in Law Enforcement. He has served in Central London since 2001. During this time he has carried out a variety of roles which include a Youth Violence Team in both Engagement and Enforcement. He has previous experience as a School Trustee in Hertfordshire, where he had responsibility for Safeguarding and Pupil Premium. His oldest daughter attended All Saints and is now in Henlow Academy. He has one daughter in All Saints (Olive class) which gives him a vested interest in local education. Richard believes his occupation highlights the importance of early education and of a strong

and influential community.

Richard is an active member of the local community including Messy Church and is looking forward to contributing and supporting Clifton All Saints Academy over the coming years.

Sam Pepper—Teaching Trustee

My name is Sam Pepper and I am the teacher Trustee. I am currently the SENDCo, Year 1 Class Teacher, I am on the Senior Leadership Team and PE coordinator within the school. I have completed the SEND National Award at the University of Bedfordshire and I completed my Level 5 and 6 subject leadership and management in PE. I am also just about to start my NPQSL course.

I have always had a strong passion and interest in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities so the role I currently lead is a dream come true! I am very active and enjoy sports myself so being the PE coordinator within the school is something I thoroughly enjoy.

I have been teaching for 7 years now, 6 of which have been at Clifton. I trained at the University of Bedfordshire for 4 years, graduating with a BEd with honours in Primary Education. I started in Clifton as the Year 3 teacher and continued in this year group for 3 years. I then moved to year 2 to face more challenges and broaden my professional development. I am currently the year 1 class teacher and have implemented continuous provision within our classroom.

Teaching is a dream; a job which I thoroughly enjoy. I am enjoying moving forward in my career, creating exciting opportunities for the children across the school and watching them flourish in their development.

Caroline Stephens – Parent Trustee

Caroline was elected as Parent Trustee in November 2019. She has two children at Clifton All Saints Academy, James and Adam. As a parent, Caroline has a broad interest in the school, the curriculum and the children. Specifically, she wanted to make sure we do the right thing for our children during the transition of the local schools. Caroline has been a chemist in the Pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years and is a STEM Ambassador. She is keen to enthuse the children about Science which she does by regularly running workshops at Clifton All Saints.

Andrew Saunders—Parent Trustee

Growing up, my parents were always very active in volunteering in the community, whether in local politics or charities. It impressed on me the importance, where possible, of sharing time and skills for the benefit of others. After a career in corporate finance, I more recently spent nearly 10 years working for a company that invested in and managed communities, including social housing and schools, providing first-hand experience of the many challenges and sensitivities.

With my links to the school through a son who previously attended All Saints and a daughter currently at All Saints, putting myself forward for election as a parent Trustee felt, in turn, like an appropriate use of volunteering time.

As a Chartered Accountant by profession and a Board Director with responsibilities for Finance, HR, IT, governance and reporting, I bring skills geared towards the non-curricular part of the school with particular interest in organizational culture and improvement. Clearly the ongoing pandemic has thrown a number of challenges to all stakeholders, which have had to be reacted to and managed, limiting the usual capacity for overall development; however we look forward to the return of more normal times and progressive improvement.

Philip Farr – Foundation Trustee

As the father of a year 6 pupil who has been at the school since Reception, and a resident of Clifton for the past 16 years, I feel a connection to both the school and the community it serves.

I have a wide range of work experience, having worked in accountancy, financial recruitment and for the past twenty-five years in senior administrative, business management and project management roles in the Public Sector.

I have worked for the Greater London Authority since its inception in 2000 and have gained extensive experience in project and business management, working on such projects as the non-sports planning of the 2012 London Olympics and the four-yearly Mayoral and London Assembly Elections.

Out of work I enjoy running and amongst other things I have now completed seven marathons. I also love travelling in high mountains and I am planning a trip to K2 Base Camp in Pakistan. However, I also enjoy the quieter side of life and now spend more time in the garden, having discovered gardening during lockdown.

Debra Sewell – Members Trustee

I have lived in Clifton for 20 years. Until July of 2020 I was a teacher at a KS1 school in Luton. I worked with children and families from a range of backgrounds, ethnicity and faiths. I am passionate about children's education, well being and learning.

In my role as Trustee I look forward to working with the school in continuing to provide an enriched and balanced curriculum to all pupils.

Nicola Farrington-Sharp – Members Trustee

I qualified as a teacher in 2002 and have worked in four local schools. I have extensive experience in upper key stage 2 and have held senior positions since 2008. In September 2014 I started work at Henlow Church of England Academy. During this time I have undertaken extensive training in the teaching of mathematics and my assistant headteacher role gives me responsibility for whole school pedagogy; staff performance and review; staff development, including initial teacher training; school action group and KS2 curriculum.

I love everything about working with young people and life in school. I now wish to give back to the wider community by supporting the work of Clifton All Saints Academy as a Trustee. I very much look forward to working with the whole school community.

Donna Newman – Clerk to the Trustees

I have recently joined the Board of Trustees as Clerk. My family and I moved to Clifton last year and have very much enjoyed getting to know the local community. I have 2 children, both of whom attend a local primary school at which I am also a Parent Trustee. I am looking forward to learning more about Clifton All Saints Academy and supporting the Board as Clerk.