

School Governor Profiles

John Boulter – Chair of Governors

John first joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governor in 2013 – the year his daughter Emma moved on to Freman College and his son Yann joined in Year 5. He took over as Chair of Governors, at short notice in November 2015

John has worked for Hertfordshire County Council since 1992. His career at HCC has seen him in a number of roles taking on increasing management responsibility over the years. He is now part of the senior management team in the Community Protection Directorate which covers the Fire Service, Trading Standards and Resilience, where he leads on finance, policy and performance.

John's main aim is to continue to strengthen the Governing Body, support the Head and the school community in its efforts to respond to the challenges which covid has presented and further develop our relationship with Freman College as we move towards establishing a Multi Academy Trust.

Janeane Hails – Vice Chair of Governors

Janeane first joined the Edwinstree Governing Body as a parent governor in 2017. She chairs the Resources Committee and is Vice Chair of Governors. She is also link governor for Pupil Premium in the school.

Janeane strongly believes in supporting the school that your children go to and being a governor has enabled her to do that. She chairs the resources committee, who oversee the school finances and look at the safety of the school, students and staff.

My main interest is also one of pupil premium and looking at where we spend the resources that we have for this.

Sandra Jones: Co-opted Governor (Chair of the Curriculum Committee)

Sandra and her husband Norman Jones moved to Buntingford in 2016 and she became a co-opted School Governor in 2017. Since then she has chaired the Curriculum Committee and is the link governor for leadership and management in the school.

Sandra has worked in the education sector for 35 years. She worked as a Headteacher in a number of settings and as a consultant Headteacher for a local authority. Most recently she worked as an Ofsted Inspector and an Education Consultant before retiring in 2019. Sandra has experience of working effectively with a number of governing bodies including a federated Governing Body, an IEB (Interim Executive Body) and academy trustees. She is a Reader in the Church of England and worships at St Peter's Church, Buntingford.

Sandra is passionate about education and working with the school and the local community to secure the best outcomes for children.

Jo Gant – Headteacher

Jo was lucky enough to choose a profession she adores and was determined from the outset to work in challenging schools. Jo has spent 20 years as a Senior Leader, specialising in improvement and 15 years as a Head.

Marcus Cooper – Associate Governor

Marcus is a member of the curriculum committee and supports the school with its Christian ethos an

Marcus is currently the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. In his role, Marcus works in partnership with schools in developing their Christian distinctiveness, leads training for schools and governors, supports schools in their self-evaluation, and works closely with local authorities on school reviews. He was previously, the Senior Education Manager for Hertfordshire, overseeing school standards and the effective delivery of education across the authority.

Annmarie Dann - Local Authority Governor

Annmarie joined the Governing Body in January 2019 and is married to Nick. They have two children who attended Hertfordshire schools and three grandchildren, two of whom attend Edwinstree. Annmarie is a member of the resources committee and is the link governor for safeguarding and link governor for training.

Annmarie's academic background is in psychology and research. She works for a professional institution managing technical programmes and projects with a focus on learning, research analysis, professional development and engineering competence. She has previously owned and managed a children's nursery for several years.

She has a professional commitment to improving the standards of education for all, as well as supporting the well-being and safeguarding of children.

Kimberley Devonshire – Staff Governor

Before joining the Edwinstree staff in 2013, Kimberley was a student of Edwinstree and has lived in the area her whole life. She joined the Governing Body in 2018 and is a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Kimberley is Head of English, having completed her teacher training and NQT year at Edwinstree and spent time teaching in humanities and expressive arts. Outside of teaching, she is a keen singer and always manage to work that into her classes somehow!

As an Edwinstree Staff Governor, Kimberley aims to give the staff a voice in the meetings and also support colleagues understand governor matters.

Elaine Forster – Foundation Governor

Elaine has had a long association with Edwinstree of over 30 years as a teacher. She joined the Governing Body in December 2019 and is a member of the Curriculum Committee and is the Link Governor for 'Looked After Children' in the school.

Elaine was the SENCO lead at Edwinstree from 2001 up until her retirement in 2018. Since retiring, Elaine has now been appointed as a Foundation Governor by the Diocesan Board of Education from December 2019.

She has a focussed interest in the Christian Ethos of the school and a particular interest in special needs and the well-being of both students and staff.

Mick Furness – Co-opted Governor

Mick has lived in Buntingford since 2013. He is married to an ex teacher, has 10 grandchildren and have always had a special interest in education and the development of our young citizens. Mick became a School Governor in 2016 and is a member of the Resources Committee and Link Governor for Health & Safety and SEND in the school.

Mick is strongly committed to the life and well-being of all who live in the town and surrounding areas, and became a Town Councillor in 2020. He retired as a Prison Governor from HM Prison Service in 2008, having served for 35 years where he was responsible for over 800 prisoners, the staff and wider teams who managed them.

Additionally, Mick is a Strategic Leader of Governance for Herts for Learning (HFL) working with other boards to assist them when required.

Helen Loughran – Associate Governor

Helen is Headteacher of Freman College and also an associate Governor of Ralph Sadleir Middle School.

Given that students from Edwinstree move onto Freman in Yr9, it is very important for Helen to be closely involved in working with the school and its governance. Our two schools are committed to providing students with a really excellent and enjoyable education, which provides them with the best possible qualifications and future opportunities. To do this, we work closely together to make sure that our curriculum prepares students for the next stage of their education and that we have strong pastoral links to support students as they move from one school to the next.

Eric Roseman – Foundation Governor

Eric, his wife and two children have lived in Buntingford for 24 years. Both children went through the school system in the town, including Edwinstree. Eric became a governor in January 2018 and is Vice Chair of the resources committee and link governor for GDPR.

Before retiring Eric was a real estate Fund Manager with interests in travel, theatre, literature, music and architecture, particularly classical. He became a School Governor because he believes in the power of education to enrich and shape lives. Too often, we as a society, undervalue education and the lasting and manifold benefits it brings.

Amy Solder – Co-opted Governor

Amy moved back to the local area with her young family in 2019. Her two children attend Anstey First school, a feeder school into Edwinstree. She joined the Governing Body in November 2019 and is a member of the curriculum committee.

Amy works in the charity sector, leading innovation programmes for social good, which aim to design and test new solutions to society's biggest problems.

She believes passionately that local schools should be outstanding places of learning and enjoyment for students not exam factories.

Miranda Trenchard - Clerk

Miranda first became interested in school governance when she was asked if she would like to become a School Governor in 2010 at the local primary school where she lives.

Miranda worked in the public sector for 41 years, most recently as an HR Manager for Hertfordshire County Council, retiring in 2021. On retiring, a colleague suggested she become a clerk for school governing bodies. Her experience as a Chair of governors helped her through the interview and in late 2017 she became a clerk to the school governing bodies for a number of primary schools. At the moment, she provides this service for three schools including Edwinstree.

Clerking for schools is a really rewarding job, which continued throughout lockdown and involves providing advice and support to the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and other Governors on governance, as well as drafting agendas and minutes for their governor meetings.