School Governor Profiles 2025-26

**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.

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**Janeane Hails – Vice Chair of Governors**

Janeane lives in Buntingford with her family. She has been a middle school governor for over 12

years and previously a parent governor at Edwinstree. She is Vice Chair of Governors, sits on the

Resources committee and is the link governor for safeguarding.

Jeaneane is a specialist nurse at Addenbrookes hospital and a member of St Peter's Church in

Buntingford. She has extensive experience as a school governor working on pupil premium,

safeguarding, pupil voice and finance. She also supports the school with SIAMs which focuses on

how the school's Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish.

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**Jo Gant – Headteacher**

Jo is headteacher of Edwinstree School, having taken up the role as headteacher in 2016.

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.

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**Marcus Cooper – Associate Member**

Marcus is an associate member and supports the school with its Christian ethos. He was previously

the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. In his

role, Marcus worked in partnership with schools in developing their Christian distinctiveness, lead

training for schools and governors and supported schools in their self-evaluation.

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**Mick Furness**

Mick has lived in Buntingford since 2013. He is married to an ex-teacher, has 10 grandchildren and

has always had a special interest in education and the development of our young citizens. Mick

became a school governor in 2016 and is a Chair of the Resources committee.

Mick is strongly committed to the life and wellbeing 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 and the

staff and wider teams who managed them.

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**Claire Francis**

Claire moved to Standon from Devon nine years ago to be nearer family and loves living in this area.

Claire became a school governor in 2023, she is now a member of the Resources committee, having previously been on Curriculum, and is the link governor for training.

Claire worked in politics for many years for a Member of Parliament – a job which entails dealing

with the varied issues constituents draw to their MPs. Through this experience, I feel that I am able

to deal competently and sympathetically with the many issues the head teacher and her staff face in

today’s academic world. In the past she was a non-executive director of a health authority, chairman

of a children’s choir and presently volunteers for the Humanimal Trust.

*“I want to be involved in my community and, by being a Governor of Edwinstree, I hope that I can*

*contribute and play my part. I am keen to ensure that students are able to learn in a safe and caring*

*environment.”*

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**Tracey Harper – Parent Governor**

Tracey and her family moved to Buntingford in 2018, and she joined the Governing Body in 2021.

Her twin daughters currently attend Edwinstree, and her eldest daughter is now at Freman College.

She is a member of the curriculum committee and is the link governor for Mental Health and Well-

Being.

Tracey is currently a Wellbeing and Lead RSHE/PSHE Adviser for HFL Education, supporting school

leaders, their teams, and Governors/Trustees across Hertfordshire and beyond. Prior to this Tracey

was an experienced leader and teacher, with over 20 years’ experience in the education sector

having taught in early years, primary, SEND and secondary sectors.

“I’m looking forward to supporting the school in nurturing students into the very best that they can

be, while also offering a voice for parents and carers of the school.”

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**Amy Kelly – Staff Governor**

Amy is Head of Year 5 and Head of RE and has worked with all year groups at Edwinstree. She

became a staff governor in 2022 and sits on the Curriculum committee.

Amy has worked at Edwinstree for nearly a decade and has seen the school go through many

changes and weather some real storms. She loves working with the pupils pastorally, “there is

nothing better than knowing you have made a positive difference in a young person's life. Despite the

job title of 'teacher' I believe we have so much to learn from our pupils, they both educate and inspire

me daily”.

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**Linda Lowther**

Linda joined the governing body in 2023. She is a member of the Curriculum committee and link

governor for Leadership and Management.

After a 40 year varied and fulfilling career within education Linda is keen to share and utilise her

wide range of skills and experiences. A previous Senior Leader, National Adviser, Executive Coach,

Consultant and Teacher Trainer who has supported Trainee Teachers and their Mentors both within

Universities and Schools. Having worked in both Middle and Secondary schools she has focused

extensively on the local community encouraging and welcoming families to become involved within

all aspects of school life. Additionally, she has successfully established restorative justice, coaching

and research based professional development to support great learning opportunities improving

student opportunities and outcomes. Born in Herts, having lived and taught locally she is passionate

about developing and sharing her love of learning within the Edwinstree school community.

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**Amy Solder**

Amy moved back to the local area with her family in 2019. She joined the governing body in

November 2019, is chair of the Curriculum committee and link governor for pupil premium and

sports premium.

Amy is a senior leader within the charity sector and believes passionately that local schools should

be outstanding places of learning and enjoyment for pupils and not exam factories.

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**Kirsty Wainwright – Foundation Governor**

Kirsty is the Priest in charge of the United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill, three

Church of England churches. She and her family moved to Buntingford in 2022 and became a school

governor at the same time. She is a member of the Curriculum committee and link governor for SIAMS.

Kirsty is regularly involved in Collective Worship for the whole school and loves developing faith and

spirituality for everyday living. She is also part of the SIAMs group (Statutory Inspection of Anglican

and Methodist Schools) aiming to develop a practical Christian ethos that is part of all school life.

Kirsty is passionate about the outdoors and especially gardening and loves walking around

Buntingford with their Labrador.

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**Miranda Trenchard – Clerk**

Miranda first became interested in school education when she became a school governor in 2010 at

the local primary where she lives only six miles from Buntingford. Since then, Miranda has chaired a

number of committees before becoming their Chair of Governors in 2015 from which she stood down in 2025.

Miranda worked in the public sector for 41 years, most recently in HR for Hertfordshire, retiring in

2017. Looking to use her experience as chair of governors more broadly, she became a clerk to

school governing bodies. At the moment, she provides this service to just the one school, Edwinstree.