

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.

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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.

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

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 a member of the curriculum committee and 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

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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Catherine Tallis - Parent Governor

Catherine has lived in Buntingford for over ten years and her two children attend Edwinstree. She joined the governing body in November 2022, is a member of the resources committee and link governor for SEND and Looked After Children.

Catherine is Director of Business Services at HFL Education, and oversees the provision and evolution of Governance, Finance, HR, Business and Technology support and services to schools across Hertfordshire and beyond. As a parent I am an advocate for SEND and identifying and addressing invisible barriers that children and young people with SEND face. I have first hand experience how the school seeks to support and nurture each and every pupil to find their wonderful

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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Frazer Willett - Parent Governor

Frazer joined the Governing Body as a parent governor in 2021. He is vice chairman of the Resources Committee and link governor for GDPR and Health & Safety. He has one child at Edwinstree and three children at Freeman who are thriving thanks to the preparation provided by Edwinstree.

Frazer retired from the police service in 2018. A life long swimmer, he now trains for fitness and enjoyment rather than competitive success and is the treasurer of the National Police Lifesaving Committee. He became a school governor in the hope that his skills and experience will help to ensure that the school has a robust structure with which to support the teaching staff in delivering the best for the students

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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 which still continues.

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 for two schools including Edwinstree.