

MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Stephen Bradshaw (MSc in Education; BPhil in Autism), Chair of Learn@ Multi-Academy Trust and a Member. Committees: Chairs Committee and able to attend all Trust Committees and Academy Councils

Married with five children and nine grandchildren. He has dedicated his life to education and opened the first specialist College for Asperger's Syndrome at Farleigh Hungerford in September, 1996, and followed this with the first specialist post 16 FE College in 2000. He has since been the Director of Schools Development for the Priory, where his success led to him being offered a seat on the Board of Priory as Director of Education and Development and later Managing Director of Priory Education Services. He went on to lead them in opening special schools around the World, including Boston, USA, and Singapore. After being the Managing Director of the Cambian Schools between 2013 -15, he was a co-founder of 'The Aurora Group', and built it up to 13 provisions by 2018. He has since stepped down from this demanding work and offers coaching to school leaders his book, 'Asperger's Syndrome, That Explains Everything', was published in 2012 and highlights his model of successfully running schools for young people with Autism



Ray Moorcroft, Chair of Finance and Audit Committee. Committee: Audit, Finance and Resources. Chairs Committee

Married to his wife Jan. He has two daughters and six grandchildren. Retired in 2013 after 40 years service with an International Company based in Bristol where he gained a depth of financial and procurement acumen. Now enjoys playing snooker, holidays, going to the gym and child minding. Ray is the Chair of Lansdown Academy Council



Andrea Wills, Chair of Quality and Standards Committee and Whistleblowing Trustee. Committee: Quality and Standards

Andrea worked for the BBC for 25 years, starting as a journalist with Radio Bristol and then making television programmes for the Natural History Unit and Bristol Features. As Chief Adviser, Editorial Policy she was one of the BBC's most senior editorial managers and in 2005 revised its Editorial Guidelines. Andrea is a highly respected and skilled investigator of broadcast complaints and was an independent editorial adviser to the BBC Trust. She is an experienced broadcast trainer and has worked for the BBC's College of Journalism and spent a year in Sydney in 2012 launching the ABC's Editorial Leaders Programme. Andrea is on the Appeals Panel for the Video Standards Council Rating Board.



Eileen Flynn (M Ed 'Raising Attainment in Inner City Schools'). Safeguarding Trustee. Committee: Quality and Standards and Chairs Committee

Eileen has been a qualified teacher since 1978 gained her Master's Degree in 'Raising Attainment In Inner City Schools' at the University of the West of England and has taught chemistry and science in secondary school for almost 40 years. For the last 3 years Eileen has been teaching in a primary school. Eileen was on the leadership team of an inner city comprehensive school for over a decade. The Director of Inclusion and the designated Safeguarding Officer. Eileen has managed Special Educational Needs, 'English as an additional language' department and learning mentors. Eileen led her school to be one of the first two secondary schools in Bristol to be awarded the Inclusion Standard and also to achieve the Healthy School's award. She also led on the Aiming High project to support the achievement of African Caribbean students. Eileen has worked with colleagues across the city (Bristol) to avoid permanent exclusion of students and was a member of the Fair Access Panel. Eileen has also taught in Japan and worked with colleagues in Canada and Jamaica. Eileen has been on the Academy Council of St Matthias Park Pupil Referral unit for over a decade, her ambition is to ensure that all children receive the support and care that they need without having to go through the damaging process of permanent exclusion.



Martin Bisp, Committee: Audit, Finance and Resources

Martin is Chief Executive of Empire Fighting Chance, a charity he co-founded. They work with young people who are on verge of, or have been, excluded from mainstream education and use sport combined with intensive personal development to help them realise their potential. They have worked extensively with St Matthias and the Alternative Learning Provision in Learn@ MAT. Previously Martin was a business analyst for an investment company for over 20 years. He is married with two daughters and in his spare time he is an amateur boxing coach for Empire ABC.



Julie Atherton. Committee: Audit, Finance and Resources

Founder and Managing Director of Small Wonder a marketing consultancy specialising in the education sector. After over 20 years' working at a Board level in commercial businesses and agencies, Julie has a breadth of strategic experience delivering leadership, business transformation, integrated marketing, and brand development. A digital and social media expert, Julie currently works with many organisations, schools and universities, in content marketing, brand development, recruitment, fundraising, CRM, digital and data, and social media. An industry leader and trainer, Julie creates and delivers digital and direct marketing training for the IDM and universities, regularly judges awards, and chairs the DMA Social Media Council. Julie is a co-opted member of the University of Gloucestershire Council sitting on Finance and General Purposes committee, a Trustee of Learn@ MAT and an Academy Councillor for Knowle DGE.



Emma Wickham. Committee: Quality and Standards and Audit, Finance and Resources

Emma has spent over 20 years working in the Independent Special Education and Care sector. In addition, for the past 5 years she has specifically focused on working in the area of Project and Change Management (mergers, acquisitions and integration). With a passionate belief that every person no matter what their 'ability' gets an equal chance to live, love and be happy in what they chose, she has championed the need for additional service for young adults leaving specialist education and care who find themselves without support. Emma has one young son, and lives in Wiltshire with her partner and two dogs, Buddy and Groobie.



Toby Kempster. Committee: Quality and Standards Committee

Toby is a practising barrister and has for over 25 years specialised in employment and personal injury law. He is presently a deputy head of Old Square Chambers which is based in London and Bristol. He lives in Bath and is married to a solicitor and has two adult children. In his spare time, and amongst a number of mainly sport related hobbies, he has for more than 10 years been involved as a volunteer with Keynsham Mencap.



Gus Grimshaw. Committee: Audit, Finance and Resources Committee

Gus is a proud parent of two sons and five grandchildren now living back in the Cotswolds where he was born in a cinema! After a career of 40 years teaching in Bath, South Glos and Bristol now leading a much easier life as a dog walker and a Chair of Governors at a local primary school. Thirty years as a Headteacher and even longer as a long suffering Bath Rugby season ticket holder Gus describes himself as an eternal optimist.



Allison Ward. Committee: Quality and Standards

A Master Practitioner NLP, PTTLs, CBT and Psychotherapy, Allison has been working with organisations, families and individuals in exploring strategies to understand and assist those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder traits. As part of her ongoing learning and discovery of this complex and fascinating condition, Allison has adapted her skills, knowledge and lived experience to create accredited courses. Courses which acknowledge the links in social, emotional and mental wellbeing for those with the condition and those supporting either as carers, family, work colleagues, partners and professionals. The 12StepAnxietyProgram was created in 2019. Allison is a Director of Autism Somerset Cic and delivers Autism Awareness Training to DWP, SCC, Avon & Somerset Police, Private Organisations, Schools and FE colleges and across the country. While supporting individuals and families with Autism, Autism and Demand Avoidance and Anxiety and other complex needs.



Peter Evans. CEO of Learn@ MAT

Experienced Leader in Education with over 22 years as a Head Teacher of a range of Special Schools covering specialisms in Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Deaf children. Peter represents local Special Schools on the Bristol Schools Forum and is a member of the South West network of CEOs representing a voice for SEND. Included within his many professional achievements is the realisation of Knowle DGE Academy as an inspirational provision for young people with SEMH or SLCN in Bristol, and the ongoing partnership with a Primary and Special School in Nakuru, Kenya with whom he has lead and supported professional visits and exchanges of staff and students. He is committed to ensure specialist education has a strong voice locally, regionally and nationally, especially vulnerable young people who experience social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.