SUMMIT EDUCATION TRUST, TRUST BOARD AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CONSTITUTION, LINK ROLES, DECLARATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS

Name	Type	Declaration of Interest	Date of first appointment
Carolyne Culver	Member	Local Authority Councillor – West Berkshire Council May 19 – present Member Peer on Local Government Association – Nov 24 - present	24 Oct 2025
Robert Jobson	Member		24 Oct 2025
Andy Tow	Member	Trustee for The Downs School Charitable Trust since Oct 2020 Director Reading FC Community Trust since March 2023 Director & Trustee at Reading Alternative Provision since March 2023	24 Oct 2025
Tony Wilson	ODBE Diocesan Corporate Member	Oxford Diocese Board of Education CEO 2019 - present Trustee of Culham St Gabriels Education Charity Trust 2019 – present IEB Member New Hinksey CE Primary School July 26 – present Trustee Agape MAT March 24 – present Trustee Cambrian Learning Trust Jan 26 – present	24 Oct 2025

TRUSTEES – Term of office 4 years

Name	Trustee Type / Appointed By	Position	Link Role	Declaration of Interest	Other organisation involvement/director or trusteeship	Date Appointed	Term of Office	Committees	Bio
Ian Anderson	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Data & Achievement	Spouse is a Managing Director of Ark Curriculum Plus - a curriculum resources provider for schools and initial teacher training	Senior Executive Leader of the Skinners' Academies Trust 2023 - present Education Director of Skinners' Company May - present	24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk Education & Standards Staff, Pay & Conditions	Ian is the CEO of a Multi-Academy Trust in the South-East, bringing expertise in school performance, data, finance, and the wider education landscape. His background includes senior work with a national teacher development charity. A governor since 2014, he joined The Downland Federation's Local Advisory Board for The Downs School in 2024.
Paul Davey	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Curriculum & Teaching (Primary)	Foundation Governor Beedon Primary School	Trustee LWPT from April 2025	24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk Education	Now retired, Paul has extensive senior leadership experience in global Technology, Media and Telecoms, leading major organisational and technology transformations, venture investments, and international M&A activity. He previously shaped global IPR practices in the emerging mobile industry. Paul is a Foundation Governor at another local primary school, has represented primaries on the West Berks Schools Forum, and serves as a trustee for several charities, alongside long-term church leadership.
Alasdair Heath	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Estates and Health & Safety	TDS Parent		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk	Alasdair is an experienced estates and operations leader in the education sector, currently Director of Estates, Property & Services at Downe House School and formerly in an equivalent role at Oxford University. He oversees major operational functions and capital development. He has served as a governor at Chieveley Primary School and at Truro High School for Girls, focusing on health, safety, infrastructure, and sustainability. Alasdair is also heavily involved in community sport as a rugby and cricket coach and former Chairman of Newbury RFC.
Joanna Lewis	ODBE Foundation Appointed	Co-Vice Chair Staff, Pay & Conditions Chair Education & Standards Vice Chair	Link Trustee for Curriculum & Teaching (Secondary) Safer Recruitment Trained	TDS Parent		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Education & Standards Staff, Pay & Conditions CEO Appraisal Panel	Jo is a lawyer and partner in a specialist construction and insurance firm, defending contractors and professionals in civil and regulatory matters. A governor for nearly four years, she has served on The Downs School Local Governing Board, chairs the Staff Pay and Conditions Committee, and is the Quality of Education link governor for secondaries and Co-Vice Chair of the Board.

Kris Nash	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Personal Development		Non Exec Director for British Mountaineering Council since Oct 26 Trustee Chippenham Community Hub since Sept 26	24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk	Chris brings senior experience in financial control and corporate planning from his time at PepsiCo, alongside a varied career as a Chartered Engineer and business consultant supporting leadership teams with problem-solving and financial management. His volunteering includes serving as a primary school governor, contributing to national strategic projects for the British Mountaineering Council on youth engagement and governance reform, and working toward Mountain Leader qualifications to support charitable outdoor organisations. He offers a strong blend of strategic planning, organisational insight, and community commitment.
Elisabeth Pinckney	Member Appointed	Co-Vice Chair Education & Standards Chair	Link Trustee for SEND, PP & Inclusion	Inclusion Consultant for Oxfordshire County Council since Jan 2020 LA Governor Beedon Primary School		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Education Staff, Pay & Conditions	Lizi is an Inclusion Consultant with 28 years' experience as a teacher, SENCO, and advisory specialist for Oxfordshire County Council. She has led inclusive practice in schools, supported dyslexia intervention, and worked extensively with the Virtual School for Children We Care For. With a master's in education focused on SEN and vulnerable learners, she re-joined OXSIT in 2021 as a part-time Inclusion Consultant. Her work centres on improving outcomes for vulnerable young people and supporting schools with inclusion.
Ross Poulter	ODBE Foundation Appointed	Finance, Audit & Risk Chair	Link Trustee for Finance, Audit & Risk	Spouse a member of the Primaries Local Governing Board, Beedon Primary School FGB and Education & Standards Committee		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk	Ross has been a school governor for three years, previously at Basildon Primary before joining The Downland Federation. Working in corporate risk management and resilience, he supports leadership teams through analysis, challenge, and accountability. He has fulfilled many roles as Vice Chair of the Primaries Local Governing Board, now Chair of the Finance Committee, and a Quality of Education link governor for the primary schools.
Chris Prosser	Member Appointed	CEO		Co-opted Governor Beedon Primary School		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk Education & Standards Staff, Pay & Conditions	Chris has over 30 years' experience in teaching and learning, including 11 years as Headteacher of The Downs School and Executive Headteacher of the Downland Federation. He has chaired the Secondary Headteachers group, served on the Schools Forum for 11 years, and is a facilitator for National Professional Qualifications in specialist and leadership programmes.
Guy Slocombe	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Careers and Sixth Form		Director at Southern Estates (Real Estate) 30 years + Non-Exec Director Victoria Square Woking Ltd. (Read Estate) since Apr 2026 Director at Kingslo Consulting Ltd. (Read Estate advisory) since May 2025	24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk	Guy is a Chartered Surveyor (FRICS) with an MSc in Real Estate Investment and extensive experience in commercial real estate, strategic asset management, and transformation programmes across public and private sectors. His career includes senior roles such as fund manager, CEO of a private equity–backed investment business, and Chief Investment Officer for two housing associations. He has developed innovative investment strategies, joint ventures, and funding models to support housing delivery and asset optimisation. Guy is also experienced in mentoring and leadership development, having served as an external coach for Future London Leaders, and now works as a consultant and non-executive director.
Andy Tow	ODBE Foundation Appointed	Trust Board Chair	Safer Recruitment Trained		Trustee for The Downs School Charitable Trust since Oct 2020 Director Reading FC Community Trust since March 2023 Director & Trustee at Reading Alternative Provision since March 2023	24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Finance, Audit & Risk Staff, Pay & Conditions CEO Appraisal Panel	Andy has led IT, Telecoms, and Technology organisations, bringing expertise in strategy, HR, governance, and legal oversight. He has board-level experience as a statutory director and has served as a Governor of The Downland Federation since 2020, becoming Chair of Governors in 2022. Andy is also a Director and Trustee of Reading FC's Community Trust and a Trustee of The Downs School Trust.
Matt West	Member Appointed		Link Trustee for Safeguarding	Partner is a SENCO in West Berkshire Primary School		24 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Staff, Pay & Conditions CEO Appraisal Panel	Matt is a Governance and Change Programme Manager for a European Investment Bank, specialising in large-scale transformation in regulated industries. He has run his own consultancy supporting the oil, gas, and financial sectors. A governor for four years, he sits on The Downs School Local Advisory Board, chairs the Policy Committee, and is the Safeguarding link governor.

Francesca Wilson		Head of Governance & Clerk to the Trust Board		Beedon Primary School Clerk to Governors Kennet Valley Primary Clerk to IEB		01 Nov 2025		All	

LOCAL GOVERNORS – Term of office 4 years

Name	Governor Type/Appointed By	Link Role	Declaration of Interest	Other organisation involvement/director or trusteeship	Date of first appointment	Term of Office	Local Governing Board (LGB)	Bio
Bonnie Brown	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Personal Development (secondary)	Member Compton C E Primary teaching staff		01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	TDS LGB	Bonnie has over 20 years' experience in education, specialising in EYFS to Year 2, and has held a range of subject and leadership roles including Assistant Head. She has worked as a Key Stage 1 moderator, delivered training for Early Career Teachers, and supported trainee teachers through BEd, PGCE and SCITT programmes. As a Specialist Leader in Education for six years, she supported colleagues in other schools to improve practice. She holds an NPQ in literacy and works across the federation to strengthen teaching and learning. Her expertise includes curriculum design, early literacy, phonics, mentoring, and developing inclusive learning environments.
Victoria Brown	Trustee Appointed Parent Local Governor	Link Governor for Curriculum & Teaching (secondary)		Director at PanBio Ltd, Agriculture, Environment, Janitorial products, logistics 2013 - present	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Trust Board Education Committee TDS LGB	Torz is an Environment and Agriculture Consultant with over 20 years' experience in soil and water management, regulatory compliance, and environmental auditing. She previously worked in science, operational, and policy roles at the Environment Agency. With 8.5 years of primary school governance experience—including three years as Chair and three as Vice Chair—she has contributed to Ofsted inspections, headteacher recruitment, and curriculum development. She has a strong interest in data analysis and pupil progress. A former Downs School pupil, she now has two children attending the school.
Jacque Davies	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Safeguarding (primary) Safer Recruitment Trained	Headteacher iCollege (AP) – 2000 – present Member of West Berkshire Fair Access Panel and Chair of Pupil Movement Panel (deciding vote holder) who decide on pupil movement between West Berkshire Schools and iCollege (AP) Summit Education Trust may elect to refer learners to iCollege for in reach, outreach or long-term support.	Secretary MD3D Laser Technology Consultants	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Primaries LGB	Jacquie has been involved in primary school governance since 2016, serving as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Safeguarding Governor. She previously held a staff governor position in a secondary school in the late 1990s. She is a highly qualified and experienced leader, having been a Local Leader in Education in West Berkshire during the early 2000s and she qualified as a National Educational Leader in Mental Health in 2022. She holds a diploma in counselling, a master's degree in the philosophy of education and the National Professional Qualification for Headship. Jacquie has worked in alternative education since 2000 and has been a Headteacher since 2005.
Penny Daly	Trustee Appointed Local Governor		None		10 Feb 2026	10 Feb 2026 – 09 Feb 2030	TDS LGB	Penny brings extensive experience across both the education and commercial sectors, with a background in governance-related areas including statutory compliance, policy development and operational improvement. Most recently serving as Director of Admissions at a leading academically selective independent school, where she led the student recruitment and admissions strategy during a period of significant organisational change. Working closely with senior leaders and governors to support strategic planning. Penny has held senior roles in the telecoms sector, bringing strong expertise in service design, performance management and leading large-scale transformation across complex organisations. Having lived and worked in West Berkshire for most of her life, Penny is particularly motivated to make a positive local impact and to support the school's continued long-term success.
Peter Dinnick	Trustee Appointed Parent Local Governor	Standards: Achievement, Data & Outcomes (Compton Primary)	None		01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Primaries LGB	Peter is a Senior Director at a commercial real estate advisory company. He is a Chartered Surveyor, whose professional work consists predominantly of reviewing leases and other legal documents, financial analysis and negotiations. The role requires an analytical mindset, attention to detail, effective budgeting / forecasting, and team management skills. Living locally, Peter and his family moved to the area in 2022 and his eldest child recently joined Basildon Primary School. He is new to school governance and wants to bring his professional experience and expertise to help support the Federation in its work to improve outcomes for students in the local area.
Claire Dearns	Trustee Appointed Local Governor		None		15 Sep 2026	15 Sep 2026 – 14 Sep 2030	TDS LGB	Claire Dearns is an experienced strategic leader with more than 20 years' experience in property and facilities management. Her career has spanned both private and public sector organisations, providing extensive expertise in financial oversight, budget management, health and safety governance, stakeholder engagement, procurement, and organisational improvement. Claire has led significant change programmes, implemented health and safety management systems, contributed to ISO accreditation projects, and developed wellbeing and mental health strategies within corporate settings. She also brings valuable insight into the education sector through her work with Capita's National Strategies division on behalf of the Department for Education.

Al Eadie	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Finance Governor	Governor of the Kite Federation		01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Trust Board Finance Audit & Risk Committee TDS LGB	Al is a commercially astute CFO (a qualified accountant and treasurer) with extensive board experience across blue-chip and private organisations having worked in financial services, manufacturing, technology and broader services sectors. His more recent focus has been on advising growing businesses including numerous projects in education. Al brings a collaborative practical approach to both strategic and operational leadership. Recent assignments include strategy development and financial controls for education and special needs groups, as well as serving as a Governor and Chair of Finance at a local maintained school.
Judith Findley	Trustee Appointed Parent Local Governor	Standards: Achievement, Data & Outcomes (Basildon Primary)			01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Primaries LAB	Judith has long-standing experience supporting young people through work and volunteering in education, sport, and youth development. A veterinary surgeon by profession, she mentors newly qualified vets and contributes to STEM outreach, with a particular interest in widening access for underrepresented groups. She is experienced in analysing complex information under pressure and has held decision-making roles on the British Horseracing Authority Disciplinary Panel and the European College of Veterinary Surgeons Residency Committee. Her governance strengths include analytical thinking, safeguarding opportunity, and championing enrichment beyond the classroom.
Ben Holmes	Trustee Appointed Local Governor		Member of Downs School teaching staff		14 Apr 2026	14 Apr 2026 – 13 Apr 2030	TDS LGB	Ben joined The Downs School as a Teacher of Languages in July 2025. Having worked in secondary schools in North Somerset, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, Ben is keen to bring together his experiences of different educational settings, his pedagogical expertise, and his practical experience of the teaching and learning environment at The Downs to support the Local Governing Board's work in ensuring we continue to bring the best out of all our students. Ben has previously served as an Advisory Board member for the Da Vinci Life Skills project in Cambridge, working closely with the project founders to develop their curriculum.
Phil Howarth	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Finance Governor	Sale of Fundraising gin to The Downs School Wife currently providing a therapy as part of BRIYM's provision weekly to TDS students		01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Trust Board Finance Audit & Risk Committee	Phil is an experienced business leader and entrepreneur with an extensive background in strategic consultancy, commercial leadership and international business development. As Owner and Managing Director of Hawkridge Distillers Ltd, he has helped build a multi-award-winning West Berkshire distillery, creating bespoke and own-label spirits for a wide range of clients. Prior to establishing Hawkridge Distillers, Phil spent more than two decades with global consulting firm holding a number of senior leadership positions across Europe, Africa and Latin America, where he led large international teams and supported organisations in achieving sustainable growth. He brings strong expertise in strategy, governance, finance, operations, stakeholder engagement and business development, alongside a proven track record of leading successful organisations through growth and change.
Ian Hunter	Trustee Appointed Parent Local Governor	Link Governor for Curriculum & Teaching (secondary)		Portfolio Performance Manager at EUI Ltd - Insurance	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	TDS LGB CEO Appraisal Panel	Ian works as a Senior Portfolio Analyst at Admiral Insurance, where he measures and aligns IT change portfolios with strategic objectives. With five years of governance experience at Hermitage Primary School, including two years as Chair of the Standards & Curriculum Committee, Ian joined the Downland Federation in 2023 as a Quality of Education Governor. Having lived in the area for over 20 years, Ian is dedicated to education as a means of unlocking potential and believes his skills can contribute to the Trusts strategic goals.
Melanie Needham	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for EYFS Safer Recruitment Trained	Serving Inclusion & Safeguarding Governor Hermitage Primary School since 2018 Manager of Hermitage Pre School Nov 2018 - present		01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Primaries LGB	Melanie began her career as a professional dancer and ran her own dance school before moving into the automotive industry. She is Manager of Hermitage Pre-School and holds Level 3 Childcare and Level 4 SEND qualifications. With three children at The Downs School and several years' experience on the governing board at Hermitage Primary, she brings insight into early years, SEND, and community engagement. She joined the Federation Board to support collaborative leadership and strong educational outcomes across all schools.
Elizabeth Poulter	Diocesan Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for SEND & PP Chair Primaries LAB	Spouse a member of the Summit Education Trust Board	Chair & Foundation Governor Beedon Primary School Apr 26 - present	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Primaries LGB	Liz has over 18 years' experience in education and public engagement, with a background in secondary science teaching in both the UK and US. She holds a master's in education and leads STEM engagement programmes in her current role, including large-scale public events and training for early-career staff. She has served as a governor for six years across two boards, contributing to leadership, strategy, and the promotion of equity and opportunity. Liz is passionate about inspiring young people—particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds—to pursue science and fulfil their potential.
Alan Shankland	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Safeguarding (secondary)		Owner & Director of Altaria Consulting Nov 25 - present	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	TDS LGB	Alan has over 30 years of experience in both large and small Consumer Goods, Healthcare, Technology and Consulting businesses in global leadership roles. With previous primary governance experience and several years coaching and managing a youth football team, Alan believes strongly in engaging with and contributing to life within the local community. With four children attending The Downs School, Alan is passionate about ensuring both students and staff have the support, environment and opportunities to thrive and grow.
Matt Stone	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Health & Safety (primary)	Community Governor at Blewbury CE Primary School part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) March 2022 – present	Managing Director of Stone Bailey Ltd, Risk Management – Dec 2012 – present Executive Partner AD Health & Safety – Event Safety – Jan 2008 - present	09 Jun 2026	09 Jun 2026 – 08 Jun 2030	Primaries LGB	Matt is a highly experienced risk management professional and school governor who brings strong leadership, strategic oversight and a solutions-focused approach to the governing board. As founder and managing director of two risk management businesses, and with a distinguished background in the Metropolitan Police specialising in major events safety, he offers deep expertise in safety, security and operational delivery. Now serving his second term as a Community School Governor and Co-Deputy Chair at Blewbury Primary, he provides effective oversight of health and safety, staff welfare and school operations in multiple schools, contributing to significant improvements in compliance while maintaining a strong focus on pupil wellbeing and community engagement.
Phillip Wells	Trustee Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Curriculum & Teaching (primary)	Member of Downs School teaching staff	Member of Edapt Edu-legal support for school staff	09 Jun 2026	09 Jun 2026 – 08 Jun 2030	Primaries LGB	Philip is an education professional with extensive experience across all layers of school governance. He has served as a local governor for two Church of England primary schools and as a founding Trustee of a Primary Multi Academy Trust, including chairing the Educational Standards Subcommittee with oversight of curriculum, teaching, assessment, and pupil outcomes. Additionally, Philip has served as a Member for a Multi Academy Trust, ensuring that the Trust Board

				Member of College of Teaching				fulfils its statutory and charitable objectives. Professionally, he has worked as a Governance Manager for a Multi Academy Trust comprising 11 schools across primary and secondary phases, supporting boards with strategic oversight, compliance, and effective governance. After a career change, he is now a humanities teacher at The Downs School with subject specialisms in Religious Education and History. Trained through the outstanding OTT SCITT programme he is currently developing his practice to reflect the best in evidence informed pedological approaches. This combined experience enables him to contribute informed strategic insight, rigorous challenge, and a clear understanding of teaching and learning across phases in support of strong educational outcomes for all pupils.
Kathryn White	Diocesan Appointed Local Governor	Link Governor for Personal Development (primary)	None	K White Coaching and freelance for Henley Business School – personal development and coaching	01 Apr 2026	01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2030	Trust Board Staff, Pay & Conditions Committee Primaries LGB	Kathryn White is a career and personal development coach with corporate leadership experience. She freelances for Henley Business School, facilitating leadership workshops. Appointed as a Foundation Governor in 2023, Kathryn is committed to supporting children's personal development and promoting core values within the Federation.

Resignations 2023-2005

Name	Governor Type & Appointed by	Date of first appointment	Resignation
Simon Elphick	Associate Member Appointed by FGB	21 Nov 2024	13 May 2024
Matt Cutler	Co-opted Appointed by FGB	07 Nov 2023	27 Feb 2025
Brad Jennings	Associate Member Appointed by FGB	27 Jan 2023	25 Mar 2025
Aidan McGruire	Associate Member Appointed by FGB	06 Feb 2024	10 June 2025
Adam Chantler	Co-opted Appointed by FGB	16 Oct 2017	24 July 2025
Camille Howard	Staff Appointed by Federation Staff	04 Sep 2023	24 July 2025
Keith Taylor	Co-opted Appointed by FGB	25 Jun 2019	24 July 2025
Emma Wilkinson	Staff Governor Appointed by Federation Staff	14 Jul 2025	18 Dec 2025
Robin Barter	Trustee Appointed Governor	01 Apr 2026	09 Sept 2025
Chris Walters	Diocesan Appointed Local Governor	01 Apr 2026	01 Oct 2026