



THE DOWNLAND FEDERATION GOVERNING BOARD

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

Name	Governor Type & Appointed by	Position	Link Role	Declaration of Interest	Read KCSIE	Date of first appointment	Term of Office	Committees	Bio
Chris Prosser	Headteacher Ex-officio and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Executive Headteacher		None	Yes	01 Jan 2014		TDS LAB Primaries LAB Finance Staff, Pay & Conditions Policy Group Shadow Interim Trust Board	30 Years experience in teaching and learning, 11years as Headteacher of The Downs/Executive Headteacher of Downland Federation. Chair of Secondary Headteachers, Member of Schools Forum for 11 years and facilitator of Specialist and Leadership National Professional Qualification
Ian Anderson	Co-opted Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust			Spouse is a Managing Director of a curriculum resources provider for schools Senior Executive Leader of the Skinners' Academies Trust	Yes	23 Apr 2024	23 Apr 2024 – 22 Apr 2028	TDS LAB Finance Shadow Interim Trust Board	Ian is a current CEO of a Multi-Academy Trust in the South-East, providing insight into school performance, data analysis, financial management, and the broader education landscape. His background includes working with a national charity focused on teacher professional development, which has equipped him with a keen understanding of effective teaching and exemplary school leadership. Ian has been a governor in various settings since 2014 and at The Downland Federation since April 2024 on Local Advisory Board for The Downs School.
Robin Barter	Co-opted Appointed by FGB	Chair TDS LAB Co-Vice Chair FGB	Federation Community & Fundraising Governor	None	Yes	20 Oct 2020	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	TDS LAB Finance	With 32 years of extensive experience in the technology sector, Robin brings a wealth of strategic leadership and digital transformation expertise. Throughout his career, Robin has specialised in software development, professional services, and consultancy, leading lighthouse programmes and high-value bids at major technology companies including Microsoft and Oracle. This experience has equipped him with the skills to enable organisations to deliver enterprise-wide digital transformation, strategic planning, and complex programme management.. Robin previously served for five years at the Europa School in Culham, where he was a member of the Full Governing Body and actively contributed to the Finance Committee and Premises Committee. Robin has now been involved with The Downs School for four years, serving on the Finance Committee, as well as Chairing The Downs School Local Governing Board. Robin is passionate about ensuring that every student at The Downs School receives an excellent education and is committed to working collaboratively with staff, parents, and the wider community to achieve this goal leading fundraising discussions and encouraging community engagement to support the school's development.
Bonnie Brown	Co-opted Appointed by FGB		TDS Personal Development Governor	Member of Staff Compton Primary	Yes	20 Sep 2016	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	TDS LAB	Bonnie has worked in education for over 20 years, with her main experience ranging from EYFS to Year 2. During this time, she has undertaken a variety of subject and leadership roles including that of Assistant Head. She has worked with the local education authority as a Key Stage 1 moderator for five years. She has delivered training for Early Career Teachers and led English courses for the local authority. She has mentored many BED, PGCE, and SCITT students and worked as an assessor on the SCITT programme. As a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) for six years, she supported teachers in other schools, sharing good practice and helping to raise standards. She holds an NPQ qualification in literacy and has worked across the federation to strengthen teaching and learning through collaboration and professional development. Her key skills include curriculum design and implementation, early literacy and phonics development, coaching and mentoring, and supporting effective teaching and learning strategies. She is passionate about improving educational outcomes and creating engaging, inclusive learning environments where all children can thrive.
Victoria Brown	Associate Governor			TBC	TBC	11 Oct 2025	11 Oct 2025 – 01 Apr 2026	Primaries LAB	Torz is a self-employed Environment and Agriculture Consultant with over 20 years of experience, specialising in soil and water management focusing on advising clients on improving environmental management practices, conducting infrastructure audits, assessing regulatory compliance, and carbon foot printing. Prior to establishing her consultancy, she worked for the Environment Agency in science, operational, and policy development roles. Her governance experience is substantial, spanning 8.5 years in local primary school governance. During this time, she has served as Chair of Governors for three years and Vice Chair for three years. She has been actively involved in headteacher appraisal processes, participated in two Ofsted inspections, and contributed to two headteacher recruitment exercises. She has also chaired and led the Curriculum and Development group, demonstrating a particular interest and expertise in data analysis and pupil progress.

									Torz is a former Downs School pupil, having attended the school between the ages of 11 and 15, and currently has two children at the school in Years 11 and 8.
Melissa Cliffe	Co-opted Appointed by FGB	Director of Primaries		None	Yes	12 Sep 2023	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	Primaries LAB Finance Staff, Pay & Conditions Policy Group Shadow Interim Trust Board	
Paul Davey	Co-opted Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust			Primary representative on West Berkshire Schools Forum from June 2022 Foundation Governor at Enborne CE Primary School from April 2019 Trustee LWPT from April 2025	Yes	09 Sep 2025	09 Sep 2025 – 2029	Primaries LAB Finance Shadow Interim Trust Board	Now retired, Paul has a history of senior strategic leadership in global Technology, Media and Telecoms businesses. Developing and implementing both organisational and technology changes for large corporates, driving venture capital investments, innovating with start-ups and market building through successful mergers and acquisitions. Paul led a transformation of global IPR practices across the emerging mobile phone industry enabling new competitors to accelerate innovation and technology advancement in a highly regulated international market. Paul also serves the West Berks community through his role as Foundation Governor of a local primary school and Primary Schools representative on the West Berks Schools Forum. Paul is seasoned in local church leadership, he also serves as a trustee for local and national charities.
Jacquie Davies	LA Governor Nominated by West Berkshire Council appointed by FGB		Primaries Safeguarding and Behaviour & Attitudes Governor Safer Recruitment Trained	Chair of West Berkshire Secondary PPP Secretary MD3D Laser Technology Consultants	Yes	12 Sep 2023	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	Primaries LAB	Jacquie Davies 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.
Peter Dinnick	Associate Governor			TBC	TBC	11 Oct 2025	11 Oct 2025 – 01 Apr 2026	Primaries LAB	Peter Dinnick 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.
Judith Findley	Associate Governor			TBC	TBC	11 Oct 2025	11 Oct 2025 – 01 Apr 2026	Primaries LAB	Judith has experience of working and volunteering with young people in a range of situations over many years including at summer camps in the USA and residential projects for underprivileged children in the UK as well as currently at a local athletics club and mentor the interns (newly qualified vets) in her daily job. She is motivated to ensure that all students have access to both academic and extra-curricular opportunities and having pursued a scientific career and is invested in access to STEM careers and making sure that under represented groups can see these career options. She is used to rapidly evaluating large quantities of data and critical information, sometimes under very stressful (literal life or death) situations and to working as part of teams including in a leadership capacity. Her roles on both the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) disciplinary panel and the residency committee for the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS) involve assessing legal bundles/ annual training reports and making considered decisions that may have significant effects on individuals careers and reputation. These roles have helped her develop independent and analytical thinking and to value the varied opinions of other members of these panels and committees whilst making decisions.
Alasdair Heath	Co-opted Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust		Federation Estates and Health & Safety Governor	Parent	Yes	10 Jun 2025	10 Jun 2025 – 09 Jun 2029	Finance TDS LAB	Alasdair is a seasoned leader in estates and operations management within the Education sector, currently serving as the Director of Estates, Property & Services at Downe House School in Berkshire. Having previously held a similar position at The Oxford University. In his current role, he oversees a broad range of operational functions including catering, estates, housekeeping, security, and operational accounts. He also oversees all capital developments across the schools sites. Beyond his professional responsibilities, Alasdair is actively engaged in school governance. He has served as a Community and Health & Safety Governor at Chieveley Primary School and is also currently still a Governor at Truro High School for Girls, where he contributes strategic oversight and guidance, particularly in areas concerning health, safety, infrastructure, and sustainability. Alasdair's dedication to education extends into the community and sport. He was Chairman of Newbury Rugby Football Club, currently a coach at Hungerford Rugby Club, holds an RFU Level 3 coaching qualification, and is a community cricket coach. He volunteers as a rugby

									coach for TDS sixth form rugby team, offering his time and expertise to support youth development in sport.
Phil Howarth	Co-opted Appointed by FGB			Sale of Fundraising gin to The Downs School	Yes	23 Apr 2024	23 Apr 2024 – 22 Apr 2028	Finance Staff, Pay & Conditions	
Ian Hunter	Parent Governor Appointed by Federation Parents		TDS Quality of Education Governor	Associate Governor Hermitage Primary School since 2018	Yes	04 Sep 2023	04 Sep 2023 – 03 Sep 2027	TDS LAB HTPM Panel	Ian Hunter 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 Federation’s strategic goals.
Joanna Lewis	Co-opted Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Co-Vice Chair FGB Chair Staff, Pay & Conditions	TDS Quality of Education & Wellbeing Governor Safer Recruitment Trained	None	Yes	11 Jan 2022	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	TDS LAB Staff, Pay & Conditions Shadow Interim Trust Board HTPM Panel	Jo is a lawyer and partner in a specialist construction and insurance firm focusing on defending contractors and construction professionals in both civil disputes and regulatory investigations. She has been a member of The Downland Federation Board of Governors for nearly three years. Jo currently serves on the Local Advisory Board for The Downs School, chairs the Staff Pay and Conditions Committee, and acts as the Quality of Education link governor for the Downs School, Wellbeing Governor and Vice Chair of the Board.
Melanie Needham	Co-opted Appointed by FGB		Primaries EYFS & Quality of Education Governor Safer Recruitment Trained	Serving Governor Hermitage Primary School since 2018 Manager of Hermitage Pre School since Nov 2018	Yes	28 Apr 2022	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	Primaries LAB	Melanie started her career as a professional dancer and performer and ran her own dancing school for many years. She then changed her career completely to work for automotive manufacturers. Her three children attend The Downs School, and she is proud to be the Manager of Hermitage Pre School. She holds a Level 3 in Childcare and Education and a Level 4 in Special Educational Needs. She has been part of a governing board at Hermitage Primary School for several years, utilising her knowledge and skills to help guide the school’s vision for the future. She took the opportunity to join the Federation Board, recognising it as a strong, cohesive team of Governors who work well together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children across the Federation of schools
Elisabeth Pinckney	Partnership Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Vice Chair TDS LAB	TDS Pupil Premium & SEND Governor	Inclusion Consultant for Oxfordshire County Council since Jan 2020	Yes	28 Apr 2021	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	TDS LAB Shadow Interim Trust Board	Lizi Pinckney is an Inclusion Consultant with 28 years of experience in education, having worked as a teacher, SENCO, and in various roles for Oxfordshire County Council, where she focused on developing inclusive practices and supporting vulnerable children. She is passionate about inclusion and ensuring excellent provision for all young people. For 10 years, she was a member of SLT and SENCO at an Oxfordshire primary school, leading the development of inclusive practices. After earning a post-graduate qualification in Literacy Difficulties, she joined the Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OXSiT) as a Special Needs Advisory Support Teacher, providing specialist support through the Dyslexia Intervention and Assessment Service. In 2016, Lizi became the Inclusion and Intervention Lead at the Oxfordshire Virtual School for Children We Care For, helping colleagues identify SEN and providing support recommendations. She worked as a Transition Consultant, focusing on primary to secondary transitions and supporting senior leaders nationwide to enhance the educational provision for Oxfordshire’s cared-for children. In 2019, she completed a Master’s in Education, concentrating on SEN, Children We Care For, transition, and challenging behaviour. Lizi re-joined OXSiT as a part-time Inclusion Consultant in January 2021.
Elizabeth Poulter	Foundation Appointed by ODBE	Chair Primaries LAB Vice Chair Policy Group	Primaries SEND & PP Governor	Spouse also a member of the Downland Federation Governing Board	Yes	10 Jan 2022	01 Sep 2023 – 31 Aug 2027	Primaries LAB Policy Group	With over 18 years’ experience in formal and informal education, Liz brings a wealth of experience in science education, public engagement, and classroom teaching. She has a Masters in Education and qualified teacher status in secondary science, has a strong understanding of pedagogy and has taught in classrooms in the US and UK. In her current role as Public Engagement Manager, she leads on the design and delivery of STEM engagement programmes, oversees early career staff training, and manages evaluation and impact reporting across the wider public engagement group. Liz is responsible for leading large scale projects, recently including a STEM open day with over 10,000 visitors. Liz is passionate about inspiring young people—particularly those from the most deprived backgrounds—to explore science and reach their full potential, an area she has championed throughout her whole career. She has served as a school governor for six years across two boards, contributing to leadership and governance with a strong focus on equity, opportunity, and educational excellence.
Ross Poulter	Parent Governor Appointed by Federation Parents and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Vice-Chair Primaries LAB Chair Finance	Primaries Quality of Education & Leadership Governor	Spouse also a member of the Downland Federation Governing Board	Yes	04 Sep 2023	04 Sep 2023 – 03 Sep 2027	Primaries LAB Finance Shadow Interim Trust Board	Ross has been a school governor for three years. He was a governor at Basildon Primary, prior to joining The Downland Federation Board. His career is in corporate risk management and resilience, acting a critical friend to leadership, which involves analysis, problem-solving, and challenging leaders to identify areas for improvement while holding them accountable for delivering their plans. Ross currently serves as Vice Chair of the Primaries Local Advisory Board, Chair of the Finance committee and acts as a Quality of Education link governor for the Primaries.

Alan Shankland	Associate Governor			Owner & Director of Altaria Consulting	TBC	11 Oct 2025	11 Oct 2025 – 01 Apr 2026	TDS LAB	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.
Andy Tow	Foundation Appointed by ODBE and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Chair FGB and Chair SET Board of Trustees	Safer Recruitment Trained	Director & Trustee Reading F.C. Community Trust since Dec 2022	Yes	20 Oct 2020	01 Sep 2023 – 31 Aug 2027	TDS LAB Primaries LAB Finance Staff, Pay & Conditions Shadow Interim Trust Board HTPM Panel	Andy has lead various IT, Telecoms, and Technology organisations in his career and has a diverse array of skills in business strategy development, HR policies, vision, mission, and values formulation, as well as fiscal governance and legal oversight. He has experience on Company Boards as a statutory director and has served as a Governor of The Downland Federation since 2020, assuming the role of Chair of Governors in 2022. He is a Director and Trustee of Reading Football Club's Community Trust. Andy is also a Trustee of The Downs School Trust.
Chris Walters	Foundation Appointed by ODBE			Panel Member for Oxfordshire County Council Admissions and Transport Appeals and Chair of Trustees for Wantage Coronation and Nursing Amenities Fund since 1994	Yes	16 Sep 2025	16 Sep 2025 – 15 Sep 2029	Primaries LAB	Chris's professional career including six years working in hospital medicine across the UK and internationally. She has experience in school governance, having previously served as a primary school governor in Wantage actively involved in headteacher recruitment. Chris currently serves as an Independent Panel Chair for school admissions appeals for Oxfordshire County Council. Chris also holds the position of Chair of Trustees for a small charity based in Wantage. Chris has hands-on experience working in primary education as a Teaching Assistant, specialising in both SEND support and Maths. Chris continues to serve as a volunteer mathematics tutor for Years 5 and 6 pupils and is actively involved in community initiatives, including serving as a town councillor and volunteering as a driver for a local advice and transport group. As a Quaker, Chris brings values of integrity, equality, and thoughtful consideration to her role as a Foundation Governor.
Matt West	Partnership Appointed by FGB and Trustee of Summit Education Trust	Chair Policy Group Vice Chair Staff, Pay & Conditions	TDS Safeguarding and Behaviour & Attitudes Governor	Partner SENCO in West Berkshire Primary School	Yes	20 Oct 2020	12 Sep 2023 – 11 Sep 2027	TDS LAB Staff, Pay & Conditions Policy Group Shadow Interim Trust Board HTPM Panel	Matt is a Governance and Change Program Manager for a European Investment Bank, specialising in delivering large transformational programs in highly regulated industries. He has run his own limited company providing Program Manager services for the Oil and Gas industry and the Financial Services sector. Matt has been a member of The Downland Federation Board of Governors for four years currently serving on the Local Advisory Board for The Downs School, chairing the Policy Committee, and acting as the Safeguarding link governor for the Downs School.
Kathryn White	Foundation Appointed by ODBE		Primaries Personal Development Governor	None	Yes	14 Nov 2023	14 Nov 2023 - 13 Nov 2027	Primaries LAB Staff, Pay & Conditions	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.
Emma Wilkinson	Staff Governor Appointed by Federation Staff			Member of Staff Compton Primary	Yes	14 Jul 2025	14 Jul 2025 – 13 Jul 2029	Primaries LAB	Emma joined Compton Primary School in September 2021 as an LSA and I decided to become a staff governor in July 2025 and is thoroughly enjoying this role. She has worked in education her entire career. She has always had a commitment to nurturing young minds and supporting students with diverse needs. Her passion for education began with 10 years working intensively with children with autism, ranging from moderate to severe needs, this was across schooling and residential settings. After a break to raise her own child, she returned contributing 14 years of experience across pre-school and primary education. Within this time she has spent 8 years specialising as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA), focusing on the emotional well-being and social skills of pupils. Additionally, she provided dedicated one-to-one support for a year to a child with Down Syndrome and specific special educational needs.

Constitution: 2 Parent, 1 Staff, 1 Headteacher, 1 LA, 2 Partnership, 4 Foundation and 10 Co-opted Governors – Total 21
Vacancy: 1 Co-opted



Trustees – Shadow Interim Trust Board – Summit Education Trust

Name	Role	Position	Declaration of Interest	Read KCSIE	Date of first appointment	Term of Office	DBS	Committees	Bio
Guy Slocombe	Trustee	Careers & Sixth Form Link Trustee	None	Yes	07 Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025 – 23 Oct 2029	Yes: Date: 10.10.2025	Shadow Interim Trust Board Finance Audit & Risk	Guy Slocombe is a Chartered Surveyor (FRICS) with an MSc in Real Estate Investment. His career has been spent primarily in commercial real estate investment and strategic asset management, regulatory compliance and stakeholder engagement. He served as a fund manager to Westminster Council’s real estate investment fund and founded the European Investment Mandates division as a partner of Drivers Jonas, now Deloitte. He has led transformation programmes across both public and private sectors. His career has included the development and deployment of investment strategies and alternative funding models to support commercial real estate investment, new housing delivery and asset optimisation as CEO of private equity backed investment business Clarenco and Chief Investment Officer of two housing associations. This includes structuring joint ventures, leveraging institutional capital and designing bespoke investment vehicles that align financial returns with social outcomes. His leadership roles included the mentoring, coaching and career development of colleagues. He was an external coach for five years for Future London Leaders. Guy also brings broader business management skills relevant to executive and non- executive roles and is now a consultant and non-executive director to multiple businesses.
Kris Nash	Trustee	TBC	TBC	TBC	11 Oct 2025	TBC	TBC		Father of two boys who have successfully passed through the Downs and on onto further education. Recent senior level experience in financial control and corporate planning for blue chip company (PepsiCo). Varied career from Chartered Engineer working in steel and food manufacturing industries to business consultancy responsible for problem solving, financial management and building strong senior leadership teams. Volunteering - Governor of primary school, stepping in during a difficult time with low pupil numbers, failed OFSTED and no Headteacher. - British Mountaineering Council, National Member’s Council representative, currently working on two strategic projects: 1. Engaging Youth, including developing a pathway for lifelong involvement in outdoor sports (how do we stop young people giving up sport in their teens?) 2. A Strategic Governance framework to simplify and streamline the organisation, speed up decision making and implement the newly approved 5 year plan. - Currently completing my Mountain Leader qualifications with a view to supporting charitable organisations in the outdoors.

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 McGuire	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