

INTRODUCING ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



Whilst St. Aidan's works closely with, and has much in common with, the other schools that together form Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, each school's strong individual identity and the unique way in which it serves its local community is greatly valued.

The Local Governing Body's commitment, expertise and local knowledge is essential to ensure the effective governance and leadership of our school. Within the framework of values and policies set out by the Trust, it works with the leadership of St. Aidan's to ensure that our school retains its distinctiveness and Christian ethos. It has an overarching responsibility for supporting the Trust Board in providing strategic direction, support and local accountability for the performance of St Aidan's.

The value of local governors within our school community cannot be overstated, and we are grateful to those who so generously give their time and commitment to St. Aidan's in this way.

ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

Karen Baker

Chair of Governors



Karen is an experienced Programme Director specialising in change management and business performance improvement. She has held a range of UK and international experience spanning retail, childcare, manufacturing and services and has a long-standing interest in education and learning, believing strongly in their power to change lives.

Karen lives in Harrogate and has held numerous community volunteer roles including with St Aidan's, Christchurch, The Samaritans, The Princes Trust and Harrogate District Swimming Club. She loves the outdoors and new challenges and presently has three children at St. Aidan's.

Kerry Kidd

Vice Chair of Governors; SEND Link Governor

Kerry has worked in the field of HR for over 25 years, specialising in organisational change, leadership development and recruitment. She has worked in a range of industries including finance, IT and healthcare and currently works locally for Harrogate and District Foundation Trust.

Kerry has been an active volunteer for most of her adult life and has spent time as a Parish Councillor and a Director of Leeds Gymnastics Club CIC. She was a committee member for SAMA for 5 years and helped to set up the Start the Music scheme at St. Aidan's. She has two children, one who has now left St Aidan's and one in Year 13. Any free time is spent walking her border collie with friends, needle crafting and keeping fit.



ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



Joy Shacklock

Chair of Welfare Sub-Committee; Safeguarding Link Governor

Joy is a GP with extensive safeguarding experience. For many years she was a GP practice Safeguarding Lead and Homeless Health Lead in Harrogate. She now works mainly in safeguarding and holds regional and national roles: as a Named GP for safeguarding children and adults in North Yorkshire and City of York and as safeguarding representative for the Royal College of GPs. In 2022, she was awarded a North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Achievement Award.

Joy is passionate about this field of work and about supporting children and young people to thrive, whatever their circumstances. Joy's family has a long history with St. Aidan's as her husband attended St. Aidan's many years ago and both their children now attend the school.

John Bushell

Chair of Curriculum Sub-Committee; Careers Link Governor

John has spent all his career in Education: teaching in secondary and special schools, serving as the headteacher of two primary schools, working as Head of Education and Professional Studies at the University College of Ripon and York St John, and serving as a governor across a range of schools. After retiring, he worked as an Ofsted and SIAMS inspector and as an adviser for Headteacher performance management.

Living near Ripon, John serves as a Trustee of a charitable educational trust, is involved in fundraising for local charities and is an active member of the village community. He and his wife enjoy the outdoors and travel, especially in their campervan.



ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



Viv Melville

Chair of Finance Sub-Committee

Viv has over 25 years of experience as a finance executive, predominantly in the telecoms industry working both in the UK and many years internationally. She is currently Head of Finance and HR in a Healthcare company based out of Leeds Beckett University.

Viv is an active volunteer, most recently as Chair of Harrogate Triathlon Club and Treasurer at Harrogate Harriers Juniors. She has twin girls - one at Harrogate Grammar and the other at St. Aidan's.

Siân Dover

Headteacher

Siân started her teaching career in North Yorkshire at Settle High School after graduating from University in York in 1996. She moved to Nidderdale High School in 2006 where she later joined the Senior Leadership Team, and subsequently became Headteacher in 2015. Having worked mainly in rural schools throughout her career, Siân moved to central Bradford in 2017 and became Principal of Oasis Academy Lister Park.

Successfully leading a school, through the pandemic, in one of the most challenging and deprived areas of the country, has allowed Siân to build on her expertise in all areas of school leadership including academic excellence, safeguarding, and inclusion. In September 2023 Siân was appointed Headteacher of St. Aidan's Church of England High School, becoming the first incumbent and first female Headteacher since the inaugural head in 1966.



ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



The Revd Matthew Evans

The Revd Matthew Evans has been Vicar of Christ Church since 2015, and as such is the Vicar of the Parish in which St. Aidan's stands. Prior to this he was Vicar of a parish in Nidderdale (2003-2015) and Assistant Curate in a group of parishes outside Ripon (1998-2003).

Since 1998 he has served on the Governing body of two primary schools before joining St. Aidan's in 2015, as well as serving other schools (CofE and Community, Primary and Secondary) as a member of the local clergy and Church. Each of his children have been students through St. Aidan's, and have now progressed to university and employment.

Josy Thompson

Josy is a Director of Funclubs Ltd, which provides before & after school and holiday care for primary school children, many of whom attend our trust schools. She has 25 years' experience of owning and operating nurseries and after school clubs in Harrogate, as well as 12 years international management experience with Unilever plc.

Josy became a governor at St Aidan's following a long association with the school, having had her four children attend since 2006. She is passionate about providing a happy environment for children, where they can flourish in educational attainment, however most importantly becoming caring individuals who will make a difference in their world.

An enthusiastic singer and linguist, her main hobby is exploring Europe and developing her language skills, as well as volunteering at HELP Harrogate.



ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



Tom Davis

Tom is a Data Engineer at Hiscox Group, with a strong foundation in both education and data science. He previously served as Head of Chemistry and Director of Academic Systems at a large independent school for 15 years, where he also worked as an A-level Chemistry exam marker and helped prepare students for Oxbridge interviews. His experience in these roles has shaped his belief in the power of education, especially in fostering analytical and critical thinking.

As a school governor, Tom draws on his extensive experience in both education and industry, bringing a unique perspective that combines academic rigor with data-driven problem-solving. He is committed to ensuring high-quality learning opportunities for students. Tom lives in Harrogate with his wife and young son. Outside of his professional and volunteer roles, he enjoys cycling, climbing, and embracing outdoor challenges.

Sally Arkinstall

After qualifying as a chartered accountant Sally spent her career in the public sector, most recently with the social housing regulator. Her previous experience included financial management in North Yorkshire schools, including St Aidan's. She is committed to lifelong learning and is currently a postgraduate creative writing student at York St John University.

Sally has three adult daughters, all former St. Aidan's students, and five grandchildren. She enjoys running and has completed half-marathons and one marathon, all with more stamina than speed! Long walks and reading are her preferred means of escape and relaxation.



ST. AIDAN'S LOCAL GOVERNING BODY



Catherine Hunter

Catherine has taught Mathematics at St. Aidan's for 14 years and has held the role of Staff Governor since November 2019. She holds an Honours degree in Food Science and prior to teaching has worked within the food industry in various roles from product development to business improvement.

She is an active member of the school community and an involved form tutor and it was through watching her students grow and develop that she became interested in further shaping the direction of the school through a governance role, to which she can bring a diverse range of skills. She has two sons, both of whom attended and have thrived during the time they spent at St. Aidan's. In her spare time Catherine enjoys keeping fit, gardening and pandering to her demanding 13-year-old cat!

Jane Kennerley

Jane has been Librarian at St. Aidan's since 2021, and has held the role of Support Staff Governor since March 2024. She was previously an academic librarian, working for fifteen years at the University of Cambridge, including ten years as their Business School librarian. She is passionate about literacy and inclusion.

She has volunteered in various roles in the community (as Chair of Harrogate Fairtrade group, as a founder of the Saints Community Library and as a charity fundraiser with the Saints' Plant Stall). Her three children are current or former students at St Aidan's.

