

THE BIRCHES
SPECIALIST SUPPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODY
As at February 2026

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS for all Governors who have served at any point in the last 12 months

Governing Body Composition as per our Instrument of Governance (12 Governors)

Local Authority Governors = 1
 Co-opted Governors = 7
 Parent Governors = 2
 Staff Governor = 1
 Headteacher (Ex-officio) = 1

CURRENT GOVERNING BODY
Inc. Terms of Office

Chair of Governors

Cieran Cassidy

See below:

Designation: Local Authority Appointed Governor

Cieran Cassidy

Date of Initial Appointment: 20 March 2018 (appointed by the Local Authority)

Current term of Office: 20.3.22 – 19.3.26 (*second 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Designation: Co-opted Governors – appointed by FGB

Alastair Dawson

Date of Initial Appointment: 13 December 2022

Current term of Office: 13.12.22 – 12.12.26 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Jamie Hibbert ([Current Vice- Chair of Governors](#))

Date of Initial Appointment: 09 October 2024

Current term of Office: 09.10.24 – 08.10.28 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Sarah Marshall

Date of Initial Appointment: 09 October 2024

Current term of Office: 09.10.24 – 08.10.28 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: Deputy Head at Lancasterian School

Paula Watt

Date of Initial Appointment: 29 March 2022

Current term of Office: 29.3.22 – 28.3.26 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Co-opted Governor 1 **CURRENT VACANCY**

Co-opted Governor 2 **CURRENT VACANCY**

Co-opted Governor 3 **CURRENT VACANCY**

Designation: Parent Governors – appointed by the parents

Caz Brader

Date of Initial Appointment: 16 December 2024

Current term of Office: 16.12.24 – 15.12.28 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Cat Mullett

Date of Initial Appointment: 12 December 2023

Current term of Office: 12.12.23 – 11.12.27 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Designation: Ex-Officio**Rob O'Hara**

Designation: Head Teacher

Date of Appointment: Ex Officio

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

Designation: Staff Governor**Victoria Lygo**

Date of Initial Appointment: 07 November 2023

Current term of Office: 07.11.23 – 06.11.27 (*first 4-year term*)

Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

PREVIOUS SERVING GOVERNORS**Governors who have actively served in the last 12 months****Miriam Verghese**

Designation: Co-opted Governor

Date they stepped down: 20.06.25

Barbara Woolley

Designation: Co-opted Governor

Date they stepped down: 29.1.26

Jamie Bytheway

Designation: Co-opted Governor

Date they stepped down: 3.2.26

Governors were appointed by the Governing Body unless stated

Governors are appointed for a term of office lasting four years from the date of appointment (but they may resign at any point mid-term). At the end of each 4 year term, if an individual expresses a desire to continue in post, the remaining members of the Governing Body vote as to whether or not to re-appoint for a following term. Whilst there is currently no maximum number of terms a Governor can serve, to keep the Governing Body current, with new and evolving ideas, generally a maximum of 2 or 3 terms is considered appropriate.