

**THE BIRCHES**  
**SPECIALIST SUPPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**GOVERNING BODY**  
*As at May 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**

**Jamie Hibbert** *Appointed as Chair at FGB4 – 31.3.26 to run to 31.8.26*  
 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: from **19.3.26** (*agreed to stay in post till end of 25-26 academic year to aid transition*)  
 Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

**Designation: Co-opted Governors – appointed by FGB**

**Jamie Hibbert** ( **Current 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

**Alastair Dawson** ( **Current Vice- Chair of Governors** )

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

**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: 29.3.26 – 28.3.30 (*second 4-year term*)  
 Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

**Joanna Boon**

Date of Initial Appointment: 1 April 2026  
 Current term of Office: 1.4.26 – 31.3.30 ( *first 4-year term* )  
 Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

**Leala Yewdall**

Date of Initial Appointment: 12 May 2026  
 Current term of Office: 12.5.26 – 11.5.30 ( *first 4-year term* )  
 Pecuniary and Business Interests: None declared

**Co-opted Governor** **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

**Jamie Bytheway**

Designation: Co-opted Governor  
Date they stepped down: 11.12.25

**Barbara Woolley**

Designation: Co-opted Governor  
Date they stepped down: 29.1.26

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 ay 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, a maximum of 2 or 3 terms is considered appropriate.