



Governor Biographies 2025/2026

<p>Mr. Matthew Cox</p>	<p>My three children have been pupils at Clapham Manor Primary School, all now having moved on successfully to secondary school in Tooting. I have seen the school develop over the years and, having been such an important part of our family life, I am really enjoying the opportunity to continue to contribute to the Federation. I became a parent governor for Clapham Manor Primary School in 2023, before becoming one of two parent governors on the Federation Board.</p> <p>Running a school is very different from my job in insurance. However, I work hard to bring my extensive governance and oversight experience to the governor role from my work with both large and small organisations. I have spent 25 years working first as a consultant with finance companies and then as an insurance executive. The context might be different but the principals around making sound longer-term decisions in business are the same as those facing us as governors in the Acre Schools Federation.</p> <p>Outside of work and school (and parenting three children!) I love being outdoors and run, swim and cycle a lot – both around South London and further afield whenever I get the opportunity.</p>
<p>Ms. Siwan Davies</p>	<p>I currently work as the Director of Collective Strength at the Fair Education Alliance. In my role at the Alliance, I lead work to develop strong, connected organisations and leaders across a 300-member network committed to tackling educational inequality. My 20-year career in the education and youth sector has focused on helping organisations innovate, collaborate and create lasting systems change so that all children and young people can thrive, regardless of background. I am also a trustee of The Funding Network which links potential donors to charitable causes and social entrepreneurs through live crowdfunding.</p> <p>Having grown up with personal experience of disadvantage, I am driven by a belief that circumstances should never limit opportunity. I bring expertise in strategy, leadership development and partnership working, along with a deep commitment to fairness, inclusion and social cohesion.</p> <p>I have lived in the Clapham and Balham area for the past 11 years and see my role as a Governor as an opportunity to give back to my local community, supporting the schools to deliver excellent, equitable education and create opportunities for every child to reach their potential.</p>
<p>Ms. Isabel Howard</p>	<p>I am an Associate in the Schools Practice at Odgers, the UK's leading executive search firm, where I support schools in appointing senior leaders across the state and independent sectors, both in the UK and internationally. The nature of my role means that I regularly visit schools, working closely with school boards and senior leadership teams on leadership appointments. My career began as a secondary mathematics teacher through the Teach First programme in Kent, followed by work in international teacher recruitment across the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>I live locally in Clapham and am proud to support schools within my community. I have been a Governor at Clapham Manor Primary School since 2022 and have supported the school through its federation with Sudbourne Primary School.</p> <p>I am passionate about the transformative impact of education and strong school leadership. Becoming a governor allows me to contribute my professional expertise while supporting pupils, staff, and leadership to help the school thrive for the long term.</p>
<p>Mr. John Knight</p>	<p>I am a qualified accountant who mainly worked for an education book publisher that, among other things, published books and other resources for primary schools. I also serve on the board and chair the finance committee of an education charity that works predominantly in Uganda and Indonesia and focuses on improving learning outcomes for all children by training and motivating teachers.</p>

	<p>I was a governor at Clapham Manor for six and a half years and chair of governors for five of those years before we joined the federation. I have continued to act as co-chair of the federation with Hannah since its formation.</p> <p>Living in Clapham about 5 minutes away from Clapham Manor and, prior to that, in Brixton means that I know and love this part of London and want to be able to really contribute back to this community. I believe that I am best able to achieve this by using the skills that I have and the knowledge of education that I have developed to support the continued development of these two wonderful schools which form the Acre Schools Federation.</p>
<p>Ms. Tamsin Marsh</p>	<p>I have been a parent at Sudbourne Primary School for eight years. I have been passionate about the school and its community since my children started in reception. My daughter is now at secondary school and my son is nearing the end of his primary journey but I know Sudbourne will always be a big part of our lives. I was elected as a parent governor at Sudbourne in 2021, before becoming one of two parent governors on the Federation Board. I have really loved getting to know Clapham Manor's staff and community and establishing the Acre Schools Federation.</p> <p>Although I am very interested in education and committed to helping children to have the best start in life, I do not work in the field of education. I'm a TV producer, creating shows for channels including the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Netflix. I love watching TV as well as making it, but when I'm not glued to a screen I enjoy playing football (badly!) with my son and competing in the South London women's squash league.</p> <p>I love London - I was born and brought up here and have lived in Clapham and now Brixton. I like to make the most of the city's restaurants, culture, museums and parks. I feel lucky to be bringing up children in such a diverse, vibrant city with so much on our doorsteps.</p>
<p>Ms. Connie Maskell</p>	<p>My educational and professional background has made me passionate about working towards achieving equal opportunities for all students.</p> <p>I attended non-selective state schools throughout my entire education and worked very hard to secure a place at university and eventually qualify as a corporate lawyer. I work at a large commercial law firm in the city where most of my colleagues come from a very different background and attended affluent private schools. I feel strongly that all students should have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their potential, and should leave school with the confidence to succeed both professionally and personally. This was a driving motivation for me to join the Acre Schools Federation governing body last year, and I have really enjoyed getting to know both the Clapham Manor and Sudborne school communities.</p> <p>I live a stone's throw from Clapham Manor (and often hear the children playing on lunch break ...) and feel proud to be involved with my local community in this way. Outside of work, I love to play sports and enjoy long weekend walks so long as coffee/cake is waiting at the end!</p>
<p>Mr. Selvan Masilamany</p>	<p>Having lived in Clapham since 2003 and with two young children myself, I became finance link governor at Clapham Manor Primary School in 2023 before joining the Acre Schools Federation as the Chair of the Resources Committee in 2024. I was motivated to become a governor as I believe passionately in the power of education to improve social mobility.</p> <p>I have worked in finance since graduating from University, primarily in investment management, and I feel this background has allowed me to support the Governing Body in reviewing and assessing the school's financials and other resources.</p> <p>Other than my university years, I have lived in London my whole life. I was born and raised in Ealing, West London but moved to Clapham after University. I enjoy running and tennis in my spare time and also help coach my sons' U13 & U15 football team for my sins!</p>
<p>Ms. Amelia Pinkess</p>	<p>I have always been driven by a desire to work in education. I've spent the last ten years teaching in three different key stages in various inner London schools. I truly found my passion in the Early Years, enjoying both teaching and team management.</p> <p>For the past five years, I have been the EYFS Phase Leader and an EYFS teacher at Clapham Manor. I am also a Staff Governor, a role I value highly. Being a Governor allows me to understand how our schools make big picture strategic decisions and ensures I can contribute with on-the-ground knowledge to help influence the direction.</p>

	<p>When I'm not at school, I love travelling, trying new restaurants, visiting art galleries, and interior design. I also keep busy being a mum to my young daughter!</p>
<p>Ms. Dorraine Robinson</p>	<p>With over 15 years of experience in youth and community work, secondary education, pastoral care, and safeguarding, I currently work as a Student Welfare Officer and Looked After Child Coordinator at a local secondary school. My roles allow me to advocate for young people's wellbeing and ensure they receive the support needed to thrive. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling, reading, attending theatre productions—especially those that celebrate Black stories—and I've written and published my own children's picture book.</p> <p>As a former pupil of Clapham Manor Primary School, I have a deep appreciation for its strong sense of community and lasting impact and I chose to become a governor to help drive the school's continued growth and success. I'm passionate about giving back to the community that helped shape my own journey and representing the diverse student body the Federation serves.</p> <p>I'm particularly motivated to support strong safeguarding practices, promote inclusivity, and contribute to strategic decision-making. I aim to work collaboratively with staff and leadership to ensure every pupil learns in a safe, supportive environment and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.</p>
<p>Ms. Hannah Sheehan</p>	<p>I have always been really passionate about and interested in education and have worked at the Department for Education for over 20 years. I have also been a governor at Sudbourne Primary School for thirteen years and Chair of Governors for ten before joining forces with Clapham Manor in 2024. I am really enjoying being part of the new Acre Schools Federation board and co-chairing that board with John.</p> <p>I used to live on Sudbourne Road in Brixton and really wanted to be part of a school community and make a difference to children's lives, which is how I first got involved with Sudbourne Primary. I now live in Greenwich but really want to keep a tie to the Brixton and Clapham communities and have been unable to drag myself away from our fantastic schools!</p> <p>Outside of work, I love traveling and experiencing new places. I also enjoy exercising - running and weights primarily - as well as eating and drinking and pub quizzes.</p>