

TRUST BOARD (Members)		
Name/Appointed By	Current / Recent Role	Skills / Experience
Arun Arora Representative of the Leeds Diocese Board of Finance	Bishop of Kirkstall	Originally trained and practised as an employment lawyer and served as National Director of Communications for the Church of England. Co-chair of the Archbishop's Anti-Racism Taskforce. Appointed: January 2024
Christopher Smith Appointed Member	Circuit Judge	Legal expertise, including criminal law and fraud Leadership role in a Trust School governance experience Appointed: September 2018
Lynne Hughes – Guy Appointed Member	GP Partner (retired) Qualified teacher (retired)	Business growth Financial management / HR Experienced in leadership and partnership working. School governance experience Education experience Appointed: September 2018
Mari Palmer Representative of the York Diocese Board of Finance	Diocesan Director for Education for the Diocese of York	17 years of headship in small schools and was also the Director of North Yorkshire Coast Research School for 6 years.
Leigh Hoath Joint Member appointment (York Diocese Board of Finance and the Leeds Diocese Board of Finance)	Deputy Dean – School of Education Professor of Science Education Qualified and experienced teacher	Trust governance Education policy and curriculum Strategic leadership Values-based leadership

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name/Appointment	Current / Recent Role	Skills / Experience
Rabea Asif Member appointed Trustee	Managing Director, Care Accountancy Ltd	+20 years experience in the financial service sector. Extensive experience in audit, compliance, and financial reporting. Appointed: May 2025
Ian Bond Co-opted Trustee	Chair of Trustees Founding Director IRIS Software Ltd	Provision of operational management systems to improve education Experienced data analyst – systems used in 1000+ schools across UK. Academy governance Appointed: September 2018
George Petrie Parent Trustee	Non-practising Solicitor with experience in commercial and debt litigation and property law. Currently working as a Coach in Mortgage Services.	Legal experience. Risk and Compliance Professional experienced in supporting assurance and control framework models. Experienced School Governor. Appointed: September 2018 Re-appointed: September 2022
Stella Pollard Member appointed Trustee	Business, Education & Progression Mentor & Funding Panel Chair – The Princes Trust	Substantial and senior level expertise in Business, Operations, Enterprise, Marketing, HR, Organisational Change, Law, Performance, Training and Learning Development. Director, Consultant and Mentor (Multi-Sector). Experienced Academy governance. Appointed September 2018 Re-appointed September 2022
Shaun Kelly Member appointed Trustee	Qualified accountant working for the Ministry of Justice	Fully qualified accountant. Significant experience of successful financial and general management in not-for-profit organisation and public sector. Experienced school governor Appointed: January 2021
David Merrett Member appointed Trustee	Management and Strategy Consultant and Senior Strategy and Risk Executive.	Experience of strategic decision making, developing and implementing growth plans, governance, oversight and change management. Strong finance skills and experience of corporate financial management/accountability and risk management. Appointed May 2022
Robert Morton Co-opted Trustee	Asset Manager	Experience in managing office, industrial/logistics and retails assets. Liaising with investors, local authorities to lead on the strategy and direction of both property assets and developments and analysing prospective investment opportunities. Appointed: January 2024

Helen Lane Member appointed Trustee	North East, Yorkshire and Humber Region of Ofsted, most recently as Senior His Majesty's Inspector and Assistant Regional Director (now retired)	Experience in extensive senior leadership, experience at a local and national level in Ofsted, including inspection and monitoring of primary and secondary schools and inspection of initial teacher training providers. Helen's leadership experience spans all of Ofsted's remits, schools, early years, further education and skills and social care. A range of school leadership roles, including as Headteacher. Helen has also worked as a school improvement advisor and as a primary and secondary science teacher advisor. In both these roles she oversaw improvements at both school and subject level. Appointed: March 2024
Ian Thomson-Smith Leeds Diocese appointed Trustee	22 years as a Primary Headteacher. Recently retired.	Experience in successfully leading schools through Ofsted inspections. Leadership roles across Yorkshire. Diocese of Leeds Advisor, supporting schools across 5 different LA's in developing their effectiveness and Christian distinctiveness, including preparation for SIAMS inspections. Appointed: April 2024
Kate Burton Co-opted Trustee	Principal, Alder Tree Primary School, White Rose Academies	Experience in working in education for 22 years. Specialised in working in challenging inner-city schools whilst working across all levels of senior leadership in both Primary and Secondary. Extensive experience in Behaviour and Culture. Holds an Executive Leadership qualification. Appointed: March 2025