

Dear Parents and friends of Star Academy,

I want to start by welcoming you all to our academy and letting you know how pleased I am to be working with you in this new academic year. As the Chair of Governors, I wanted to ensure that you all knew who your Local Academy Committee is and how we work with the academy to ensure your children gets a quality first education.

The Local Academy Committee works strategically with the senior leaders and staff, providing challenge, support and ensuring they are accountable for the standards and learning experiences of your children. We have a strong academy committee and this letter is to introduce you to the members of our team and tell you a little about ourselves.

We currently have a vacancies for parent governors. Mrs Wildman has sent out a letter with more details about applying. If you are interested and would like to find out more and discuss this further with me, please contact me at sue.finney@academytransformation.co.uk

Your sincerely

Sue Finney

Chair of Governors



Academy Committee members



Sue Finney (Chair of Governors)

I have been the Chair of Governors at Star academy since September 2018. I worked for Staffs County Council for 30 years working with Children's services. When I retired, I found I had time to dedicate myself to Governance work in school. I feel very passionate and proud to be a part of our Academy and I thank you as parents/carers for bringing your lovely children to be taught by a wonderful team of very experienced staff.

I attend many meetings within the Academy but most importantly I have the opportunity to observe and challenge the teaching and learning of the dedicated staff and watch our wonderful children work to reach their individual goals with their learning.

I could not do my role as Chair of Governors if I didn't have the help and dedication of the other members of our Academy Committee and between us we observe and challenge all aspects of the strategic running of our academy.

Our children all deserve the very best teaching and learning and I'm very happy to say that this academy provides this.

Fr. Chris Routledge (Vice Chair of Governors)

I'm Father Chris Routledge, the vicar of St Barnabas' Church Bradwell and St Andrew's Church Porthill. Following a number of years as governor at Sun Academy, I also became a governor at Star Academy in 2019. As a community governor for Star, I have a special interest as the Link Governor for Special Educational Needs. Every child is unique and deserves the best possible start in life, and if I, as a governor, can play a small part in helping our children achieve their potential, then that is time very well spent.

Jon Hankey (community governor)

I'm Jon Hankey, a serving Headteacher from North Staffordshire with a passion for promoting a love of learning with the children, young people and adults that I meet. I feel blessed that I wake up each morning, excited to go to work in a job that I love and I am thrilled to have been appointed to Star Academy as a Community Governor where I look forward to getting to know the children and local community of Sandford so that we can all enjoy coming to school with a smile, to thrive and grow.

Prior to two decades experience in primary education, I worked in the telecoms industry as an account manager, in recruitment as a consultant and in management consultancy as an associate. While I picked up lots of business skills in these roles, they consistently reaffirm my commitment to education and the potential unleashed by schools to make a positive difference to the lives of others.

Tom Beecham (Community governor)

I am one of the newly appointed community governors at Star Academy. I feel honoured to become part of the school's community. I'm eager to begin my role and support all the children, parents, staff and governors within the academy.

I'm married, with a 5-year-old daughter. Family is important to me and I'm privileged to now be part of the Star family. I am a big fan of sports (in particular football) and music. I believe sports, culture and the arts can play a pivotal part in developing mental health and wellbeing of all children in and outside of the classroom. Having spent a number of years working in roles which deliver services to support children and schools. I hope I can be an asset.

Rachel Bithell (staff governor)

Originally, I started working as an LSA 13 years ago, I have always wanted to develop a career in education and am entering my second year studying a Foundation Degree in Education, hopefully leading me into the role as a teacher. I have been in my current position for 3 years. I am passionate about my job and the reason I took on this role, as staff governor, was to help the children and staff in any way I can. I attend regular governing meetings.

Caroline Lewis (Assistant Principal)

My name is Caroline Lewis and I am the Assistant Principal at Star Academy. I have worked at this Academy for about eight years. During the last two years I have become involved with the Governing Body with my role being an observer. This allows me to understand the role of the governors and how they challenge and support the improvements across the whole academy.

As part of my job in the Academy I liaise with some of the governors and they challenge and support me in my roles as the safeguarding lead, the personal development lead and the maths lead.

In any spare time that I have I love spending time with my two boys, watching films, cooking, baking and riding my motorbike!

Stacey Green (Parent governor)

I have worked in education at various schools across the city for over 10 years and have been a parent of children at Star Academy for the past 5 years.

I have been a proud member of the Local Academy Committee for the Academy for just over 3 years and have recently become the link governor for Early Years Foundation Stage. Not only am I a parent of a child at the Academy, but most of you will also recognise my face as a member of staff. I work in the Foundation Stage as an Early Years Practitioner and have a real passion for Early Years.

As the EYFS link governor, my main focus is to constantly assess the provision of our Nursery and Reception classes. I believe the opportunities we give to our children at a young age shapes their behaviour and attitude towards learning, encourages their independence and opens their minds to become great achievers.

As an educator, a member of the local community and ultimately as a parent, I not only want the best for my own children, but yours too.

Kate Wildman (Principal)

I am delighted and privileged to be the Principal at Star Academy Sandyford. As Principal, I share all the wonderful news about the academy and in turn, the governors support and challenge me to make important changes. These changes mean that the children at Star Academy are getting the best education and Academy life that we can provide. Our governors have chosen to dedicate their time because they are passionate about our community and the families that live in it. I am an incredibly lucky lady to have such a great team around me.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

If you are interested in finding out more and discussing this role please contact the Chair of Governor at sue.finney@academytransformation.co.uk
We would love to welcome you on board.