

Trustee Profiles

Executive Trustee

Sarah Gillett – Executive Head Teacher (CEO) Sarah holds a post graduate diploma in special education, a Master’s degree in education studies, a specialist leader in behaviour and attendance qualification and the national professional qualification for headship (NPQH) as well as qualified Lead Ofsted inspector. She has also completed the SSAT executive Heads course. Sarah has worked in senior leadership for the last 12 years. Prior to her teaching career Sarah worked in commerce in London and the Middle East, managing a property portfolio of over £200 million on behalf of a variety of UK and international based clientele.

Skills: leadership, education improvement, finance, business, HR and data handling

Executive Team

Chris Humphries – Senior Deputy Head Teacher Senior deputy Head teacher

Chris has been in senior leadership roles for the last ten years including acting Head teacher of an Outstanding PRU in Devon, involved in DFE consultation and shortlisted for SLT TES awards. Chris is currently undertaking an MA in coaching and mentoring and has operated as a Solution Focused coach for the last nine years. Chris holds a NPQH qualification as well as SLE status and is regularly involved in school to school support as well as School direct teacher training. Chris previously worked in commercial leadership development and ran a number of educational establishments across the UK. Chris’ areas of specialism lie in systems development and implementation, leadership development and behaviour management

Paul Winterton – Deputy Head Teacher Paul is an experienced senior leader including as acting Headteacher. Paul holds an NPQH and is a qualified Ofsted inspector. Paul is regularly involved in school to school support and lecturing in initial teacher education. Paul started his working life running a number of restaurant businesses, employing large numbers of people and developing their skills. This led him to becoming a science teacher and subsequently putting his highly effective commercial skills to use in leading education.

Paul Turner – Head of Finance and Chief financial officer of trust. Paul is a Chartered Accountant with over twenty years' experience in a range of organisations in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors including shipping, media, social and nursing care, property, leisure, retail / wholesale and currently education. After completing an MBA Paul has held a number of senior financial roles which have also encompassed wider responsibility incorporating Operations, ICT, HR, and Property. Paul is a great believer in life-long learning and have recently completed a Psychology degree which he is finding to be beneficial in working for a group of schools providing education for a range of children requiring high needs support.

Annette Benny	
Role	Trustee
Term of office	4 Years
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	Deputy director of corporate affairs – NHS NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. Director, Delt Shared Services Ltd, Plymouth
Profile	<p>Annette commenced her career as a podiatrist, joining the NHS in 1988. She has since held roles in operational management, leading capital projects, consultancy, commissioning and performance management in both the NHS and Department of Health. As the programme manager, she helped set up the largest CCG in England, NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, which was established with no conditions in 2012. More recently she has led a portfolio comprising contracting, business intelligence, information technology, referral management, human resources and organisational development.</p> <p>Passionate about making a difference for local people she has led a number of major change programmes such as the roll out of Choice, Choose and Book across Devon and Cornwall and the redesign of the Devon wide Referral Management Service. She is a Director at Delt Shared Services; a company she co-founded between the CCG and the City Council to provide great IT services in partnership and to maximise opportunities to improve health and wellbeing by keeping quality jobs at a local level.</p> <p>She is currently the Deputy Director of Corporate Affairs and Chief Information Officer and is proud to have worked with her fellow Chief Information Officers across Devon and Cornwall to produce a jointly owned Digital Roadmap covering 1.7million population.</p> <p>As a result of her work above she has a broad range of experience and skills which she is able to offer as a Trustee of ACE. She cares that the Multi Academy Trust continues to make a difference for even more young people and is proud to be a part of it.</p>

Isabelle Morgan	
Role	Trustee
Term of office	4 Years
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	Employed by Plymouth City Council with jurisdiction to place students at ACE and commission their places.
Profile	Isabelle has 10 years working for Plymouth City Council and is currently employed as the manager of the Inclusion, Attendance and Welfare Service. Isabelle has city-wide responsibility for ensuring that all statutory school age children in Plymouth are accounted for and attending and receiving a suitable full time education.

Joan Watkins	
Role	Trustee & Chair of Local Governing Board
Term of office	4 Years
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	None
Profile	<p>Joan is a mother of 2, having a son and a daughter. She is a grandmother to 5 grandsons ranging in age from 1 to 15 years old.</p> <p>Joan is now a retired nurse and midwife. She was also former Plymouth City Councillor where she chaired the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel before becoming Cabinet Member for Children's Services.</p> <p>Joan is now working with Youth Offending Services and Aneurin Bevan Health Board developing Befriending Services in Wales as a volunteer. She also sits on the Scrutiny Panel for Children's Services Newport, representing the Monmouth Diocese Church in Wales.</p> <p>Joan's interests include reading, gardening travel, politics, cooking, meeting friends and of course very involved with her family.</p> <p>Joan is committed to supporting ACE in all aspects of the services it provides and what it continues to achieve for our children.</p>

Peter McDonnell	
Role	Vice Chair of Trustees
Term of office	1 Year
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	Employed full time by Navitas Limited as the College Director. Principal of Plymouth University International College.
Profile	<p>Peter joined ACE Plymouth in June 2014 as a Community member on the Executive Management Committee, and subsequently became a member of the Finance & Resources Committee and Pay Committee. He is currently employed as the College Director and Principal of Plymouth University International College; a Higher Education pathway College operated by Navitas Limited, a position he has held since July 2010. Prior to that time, Peter had a military career which spanned 36 years during which he held a number of Command appointments including sea Command of the surface ship HMS Anglesey and the nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine HMS Victorious. He also held positions as the Career Manager responsible for the professional development and appointment of all submarine warfare specialist officers, and Command of the Royal Navy Submarine School.</p> <p>Peter has a Master of Science Degree in Leadership and Management from the University of Portsmouth and a First Class Honours Degree in Education and Training, and a Certificate in Education (PCET) from the University of Plymouth. He is a member of the City and Guilds Institute for Leadership and has a Level 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in Management.</p> <p>As Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees for ACE Schools MAT, Peter brings a wealth of experience, management, leadership and financial acumen to the Board. He is passionate about providing opportunities for young people to achieve their full potential, and the promotion of a lifelong learning culture.</p>

Tim Searle	
Role	Chair of Trustees
Term of office	1 Year
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	Aerospace and high technology materials engineering and wind energy, usually in pan European collaborative and commercial research programmes
Profile	<p>Tim Searle is a consulting engineer, with a special interest in high technology materials for aeroplanes, large wind turbines and sports equipment etc. He is passionate about sport and has completed 10 marathons and 2 Ironman triathlons. He would like to be faster! He lectured in engineering at Plymouth University for 10 years and has chaired the large Youth and Children's program at Mutley Baptist Church.</p> <p>He is married to Debra and they have 2 girls Heidi and Molly. Surfing camping and other outdoor things take up their spare time as a family.</p> <p>Tim is the Chair of Trustees for the ACE Multi Academy Trust.</p>

Alastair Wright	
Role	Vice Chair Designate of Trustees
Term of office	1 Year
Governance roles in other schools	None
Business/Financial interests	Employed by KPMG
Profile	<p>Alastair Wright BSc & ACA is an Accountant. He has worked at the financial services firm KPMG in Plymouth since 2013. He has a number of different audit clients including Charities, Higher and Further Education institutions as well as large and medium size companies.</p>