

GOVERNOR PEN PORTRAITS – 2023-24

ROISIN MAGUIRE, MBE
Chair



Roisin is the Chair of Birches Head Academy governing body, a member of the Finance and Operations Committee and a member of the Scrutiny Committee.

Previously at St Joseph's College, Trent Vale for 18 years, 12 of these as Headteacher, her experience in education is extensive and her areas of achievement include increased academic performance at both GCSE and A Level, achievement of OFSTED 'Outstanding' – the first in a secondary school in Stoke on Trent, buildings and facilities improvement, nationally recognised Value Added Performance. She has been involved in a number of Stoke on Trent secondary schools to provide expertise and support, particularly in relation to establishing and driving successful school improvements.

Roisin has also set up a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and was appointed a National Leader in Education in 2010. She is a Bachelor of Education, holds the national Professional Qualification for Headship NPQH, a Certificate in Education and Catholic Teachers Certificate.

In 2017, Roisin was awarded an MBE for her services to education.

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RACHEL BILLINGTON



Rachel is a co-opted governor of the Birches Head Academy governing body, the Scrutiny Committee and also Finance and Operations Committee. She is also Acting Chair at Woodcroft First School in Leek. She is a value driven practitioner working in the field of creative education and strategic leadership.

Rachel is an experienced writer, leadership coach, action learning facilitator and project manager and has previously been a Director of Creative Learning for a charity delivering creative learning programmes across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. She has been extensively involved with schools via her roles with Arts Council England as Creative Programmer for Creative Partnerships Stoke on Trent and also as an Education and Outreach Officer at the New Vic Theatre.

She has also been the Chair of Youth and Children's Board, Congregational Federation and is currently supporting St Luke's CofE church, supporting the life of the church in worship, learning and working in the community.

Rachel was awarded a BA degree in Drama and has undertaken various management and coaching accreditations.

KATIE DIXON *Principal*





Katie is a member of the Birches Head Academy governing body.

After graduating from Staffordshire University in 1996 with a BA honours degree in Geography, Katie started her teaching career in Stoke on Trent and later moved to the West Midlands where she taught in a large 11-18 school in West Bromwich.

Katie has worked as an advisory teacher for the Local Authority in Stoke on Trent for 4 years and moved to Birches Head Academy in 2008 as an Assistant Headteacher. She was promoted to Deputy Headteacher and in 2015 was successfully appointed to Headteacher.

Katie has now joined as a Governor for Esprit MAT and is an active member of this board.

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<p>REV. JAMES GANDON <i>Vice Chair</i></p> 	<p>Reverend James is a co-opted member of the Birches Head Academy governing body and is the vicar at St Andrew's Church in Sneyd Green.</p> <p>James has a keen interest in education and, working alongside the Church's Children's Worker, has responsibility for the Children's and Youth ministry. He is also engaged with the local community, leading or facilitating a number of outreach projects and is involved with local schools.</p> <p>As well as working and expanding his career in the UK, James has spent time volunteering abroad, heading a number of mission teams and spending several months in Brazil working on a community development project in a slum and in a prison.</p> <p>James has a Diploma in Theology and Pastoral Studies from the University of Nottingham, a BSC in Psychology from the University of Leicester and a BA in Theology from Trinity College, Bristol.</p>
<p>JOHN BRYDEN <i>Co-opted Governor</i></p> 	<p>John has worked in five different schools across Cheshire, Staffordshire and Greater Manchester in a 28-year teaching career. He has had a range of roles over the years including deputy headteacher (curriculum), head of sixth form, assistant head (data and reporting) and he led the £4m buildings project at St. Joseph's College 2014 - 17.</p> <p>John has a degree in Economics from UCL, completed his teacher training in London and has also been awarded the NPQH. He completed his career teaching maths at Birches Head in 2017 - 18.</p>

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ALEX GROWCOTT
Co-opted Governor



Alex is a co-opted governor of Birches Head Academy. He became a governor to contribute to his local community, endeavouring to provide the children of Stoke-on-Trent with a world-class education.

Prior to entering the teaching profession, Alex acquired experience in a range of business development roles. Alex currently works in Stoke-on-Trent as a teacher of secondary and further education. He has also undertaken a range of middle leadership roles including Head of Year and Head of Department. In 2019 Alex was appointed a Specialist Leader of Education.

Alex has a LLB Law (Hons) Degree from The University of Wolverhampton, a PGCE and MA Education from Staffordshire University. He is continuing his love for lifelong learning by studying for the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership.

Kath Thompson
Co-opted Governor



Kath was invited to join the governing body for her expertise in School Business Management, Human Resources and her knowledge of the school and its history. Kath worked at the school for almost 30 years prior to her retirement in August 2017. During this time she held a number of posts eventually becoming School Business Manager and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In this role she was responsible for all personnel issues, premises, health and safety, legal issues and administration. She held this position for around 20 years during which time she was responsible for overseeing the move to one site and the major building projects between 2005 and 2015. Kath has served previously as a governor at the school for around 10 years representing support staff and has contributed to and attended many governor's meetings in her capacity as School Business Manager.

Kath holds a Diploma in School Business Management (MMU), Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Administration management (MMU), Post Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership and Management (MMU) and a HNC in Business Information Technology (Staffs University)

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**Georgios
Chatzigeorgiou
Parent Governor**



George is a parent governor.

Having practiced family law as a lawyer in Greece for sixteen years, he moved to the UK in 2015 in pursuit of the next step in his career.

He has a LLB law from the Aristotle University (Greece) and also holds a Master of Laws LLM (ULaw - London) in cyber laws and compliance.

George currently works as a regulatory compliance analyst for a Stoke-based multinational company and occasionally offers his services as an interpreter to the NHS, Social Services and other public organisations.

**Clare Morton
Parent Governor**



Clare is a parent governor.



Clare is currently the headteacher of St Mary's CE Primary school in Tunstall.

She holds a BA (Hons) degree in English and applied Social Studies. Clare completed a Primary PGCE in 2002 and became a Primary School teacher during that year. She has taught all age ranges from Nursery to Year 6 and has been at her current school for 19 years.

Clare has previously been a key stage leader and Deputy Headteacher. In 2016, Clare was appointed as a Specialist Leader of Education specialising in early reading, phonics, early writing and English. She has supported many schools across the city and beyond.

Clare took on the role of headteacher at St Mary's in March 2020, 3 days after the first National Lockdown was announced.

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<p>Mark Hinton Staff Governor</p> 	<p>Mark is a staff governor and has been the Finance Officer at Birches Head Academy for nearly 3 years.</p> <p>He has a BA (Hons) degree in Financial Services which he obtained whilst previously working for Lloyds Bank for 36 years. With them he held various roles including Bank Manager, Management Coach and as a Process Designer. He also has completed his Associate of the Chartered Institute of Banking professional qualification and is currently working towards completing the Level 4 Diploma, School Business Manager.</p> <p>Mark was previously a parent governor of Langdale Primary School when his daughters attended this school in Newcastle and he is hoping to use his experience in his new role of Staff Governor.</p>
<p>Katy Wainwright Staff Governor</p> 	<p>Kate Wainwright grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne, then moved to Bristol to study Physics and Philosophy at Bristol University. After graduating in 2007 Kate then pursued a PGCE in Physics and Science.</p> <p>Kate started her teaching career in 2008 at the Castle School in Thornbury where she acted as the NUT rep and staff governor. In 2015 the Wainwright family moved to Buxton. Prior to arriving at Birches Head Academy Kate was the second in science at The Ecclesbourne School in Duffield.</p> <p>Kate is married with four children and a dog. She enjoys the outdoor lifestyle of the Peak District.</p>