



Meet our Trustees

Lawrence Sheriff School (Corporate Member)

Lawrence Sheriff School is an outstanding grammar school in Rugby. Its vision is that it is a happy and successful school, where students know that they matter, that their voice is heard, and that they can and should achieve their very best. Their ethos is that they put people at the centre of all that we do and it is highly regarded within the local community and further afield. It is a Teaching Hub for Coventry and Central Warwickshire and offers excellence in all that it does.

Anna Carr (Safeguarding & Attendance Lead Governor) - pastoral responsibility

Anna has been Pastoral Manager and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at Lawrence Sheriff School since 2018. Upon completing her degree in Psychology at Manchester Metropolitan University, she advanced to Sheffield University to undertake a Masters degree in Education and Psychology. She started her career working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant in a primary school, before pursuing a career in her chosen subject of psychology as an Assistant Psychologist. When Anna is not at work, she enjoys walking in the peaks with her husband and daughter. She is an avid reader and enjoys attending the theatre.

Bronia Costello - SEND responsibility

Bronia is the Head of Biology and PSHE at Lawrence Sheriff where she has worked for over 20 years. As well as instilling a love of her subject, she is passionate about recognising young people as individuals and her purpose is to prepare them for the rest of their lives. She always believes in looking at situations from different perspectives and as a result she has previously been a Vice-Chair of Governors at a different local secondary school. Her main focus whilst in that role was curriculum development as well as health and safety. Another aspect of her volunteering life is within Girlguiding. She is a unit leader, Division Commissioner and Regional Trainer and also provides training across the entire country, specialising in diversity and inclusion, as well as leading and managing people. She is a very proud mum to two daughters, both of whom have gone through various schools in Rugby and she has focussed her interest on the provision of safe, happy schools where young people can thrive.

Kathryn Evans (Safeguarding & Attendance Deputy Governor) – teaching and learning responsibility

Kathryn is a mother of a pupil at the school and is a Parent Trustee. She is a primary school teacher working within Warwickshire and enjoys watching children progress and develop from their early education in the EYFS to being secondary school ready as they leave Year 6. She feels it is such a privilege to be part of this journey and to have supported young people academically, socially and emotionally so that they become confident and successful in the future. She is keen to use this experience to help and challenge The Griffin Primary School as it starts on its own journey, and to ensure that all pupils and staff are enabled to succeed.

Alison Hine (Headteacher)

Having attended Warwick University from 1990-1994, Alison has been involved in education for 28 years, 22 of those in Senior Leadership and the most recent 11 as a Headteacher. She has led school improvement across a number of schools and is passionate about ensuring that the first phases of a child's education are inspirational and successful, creating a love of learning and developing a child's confidence and ability across all areas. All children deserve excellence and that is what she aims to achieve in all that she does. Her values and ethos align perfectly with The Griffin Primary's belief that a happy school is a successful school. In her spare time she enjoys going to the Theatre, reading and gardening.

Ravdeep Jagpal – health and safety responsibility

Ravdeep lives in Rugby with his wife, daughter and son. As a qualified Chartered Accountant with nearly 20 years' experience, he has worked in Finance and Strategic roles in a range of industries, both within the Midlands and New York. He is currently working in a senior management position at a global Automotive company.

He loves watching and playing football and enjoys watching movies and TV shows. He likes to volunteer in his spare time and most recently helped a Charity set up a sports facility (from raising funds to obtaining planning permission and buying equipment) so that families and children can use the facilities free of charge.

He wanted to become a Trustee to be a collective voice for all parents, to ensure their ideas and feedback (whether good or bad) are being heard and acted upon. He also wanted to use his skillset and experience to help maximise the school's resources and build on the great work already taking place, because nothing is more important than our Children's development and wellbeing.

Peter Kent (Chair of Trustees) – standards and outcomes responsibility

Dr Peter Kent was headteacher of Lawrence Sheriff School from 1999 until his retirement in December 2021. Throughout these 23 years, the school maintained an Ofsted grading of outstanding. It became a National Teaching School in 2012 and became one of the government's National Teaching School Hubs in 2021. Having completed his doctorate in school culture in the early years of his headship, Peter worked part-time for the National College for School Leadership for several years and was one of the team of authors who prepared their modules on Personalising Learning, Closing the Gap and reducing in-school variation. He also wrote some of the modules for the National Professional Qualification for Headship. He was actively involved in the Association of School and College Leaders and was ASCL President from September 2014-August 2015. In subsequent years, he became a member of the Ethical Leadership Commission and contributed to their 2019 report Navigating the Educational Moral Maze. As a result of his work with ASCL, Peter joined the Executive of the International Confederation of Principals, the representative body for professional leadership associations across the world. Having served as the European member of their Executive, he was elected President during their convention in Shanghai in 2019 and took on the role in January 2022. As President of ICP he works with school leaders from across five continents as well as a range of governments and international organisations such as the OECD. He is a serving Ofsted Inspector and regularly takes part in inspections and other school improvement activity. In recognition of his contribution to education, he was made an Honorary Professor of Practice by the Centre for Education Leadership, Institute of Education, University College London, in October 2022 and received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Warwick University in January 2023.

Thomas Legge - school improvement responsibility

Thomas has lived in Rugby for over 15 years and currently has three children in the local state school system. He has been involved with the free schools and academies programmes since their inception, actively working on the opening of over 200 new schools. A trustee Of Lawrence Sheriff School, Thomas has been involved in governance for schools in Rugby since being elected parent governor at a local Primary School, subsequently taking the Chair. As Chair of the Rugby Free Primary School Local Governing Body Tom saw the school through its first Ofsted inspection where it received a Good judgement in all categories. Thomas also served as Chair of the Sustainable Improvement Board for Rugby Free Secondary School which moved the school to an overall judgement of Good in all categories. When not governing schools, Tom is a season ticket holder at Stoke City and runs an education consultancy in his remaining spare time.

Nimal Mistry - finance responsibility

Nimal is proud to have recently been appointed to the Governance Trustee Board of The Griffin Primary School and is looking forward to working with fellow Trustees and Members to help all the children to fulfil their potential. Her area of expertise is finance and she has over 7 years of experience in education and over 20 years accounting background working for non-profit organisations to private sector firms. She is married and has two children, both of them at primary school. She believes that education is important and is always at the forefront in our lives and that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest. She is here to invest her time with The Griffin Primary School.

Emily Welch - teaching and learning responsibility

Emily Welch has been teaching Music at Lawrence Sheriff School since 2013. She is also a Head of Year and enjoys leading and participating in extra-curricular activities and school trips. Prior to teaching, Emily worked in logistics and HR before completing her PGCE at Bath Spa University. Outside the classroom Emily enjoys walking, usually with her husband and two dogs. When not looking after her two small children she is an enthusiastic concert goer and enjoys playing the flute and piano.

Paula Whitfield (Independent Member)

Paula is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA), having trained as a chartered accountant with PWC, working in their London, Cardiff, Sydney and Birmingham offices. Paula worked for PWC for 15 years, finishing her career with them as a director in their pensions audit and assurance business. Paula also worked for British Airways for 3 years in their engineering division reviewing business performance and being involved in the sale of a business. From 2009 to 2022 Paula worked for the GEC 1972 Plan and Talent Ltd specialising in pensions accounting for the company and the pension plan and supporting the Board's Audit Committee on various topics such as risk management, controls, financial reporting, taxation and audit (both internal and external). Paula currently works for Ball Corporation, assisting them on long term pensions projects. Paula is an experienced school governor, having started on the governing body of her local infant school in 2007 where she ultimately became Chair of Governors. She is currently a Trustee and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee at Lawrence Sheriff School and has previously been the Chair of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust, a 19 school Multi Academy Trust across Coventry and Warwickshire.