

Trustees of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School

The role of Trustees

1. Ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

The National Governance Association also recognises the following as the fourth core function of governance:

4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Trustees are responsible for governing a charitable company and directing how it is managed and run. Trustees must also ensure that the trust complies with all legal and statutory requirements. Trustees should seek the advice of the board's governance professional and other professional advice as appropriate. *

QEGS Trust board

Maggie Robson - Chair

Before retiring Maggie was in education for over 35 years and was Headteacher of a large secondary comprehensive school for 13 of those. She has a wide experience of school governance and the professional skills to enable her to support, challenge and collaborate in order to ensure that QEGS continues to provide a rich education so that all pupils thrive and reach their potential. A number of QEGS pupils come from Carlisle, where Maggie lives, and she is impressed by their confidence and their pride in their school. Maggie feels privileged to contribute to QEGS as it moves into the next stage of its development.

Mark Pannone

Mark has a non-education background and has worked extensively at a senior level for Cumbria and North Yorkshire Police. He has extensive experience in managing complex and challenging situations including leading Cumbria's Tactical Coordination Group in response to the COVID pandemic. Mark's children attended QEGS and he is committed to supporting the school.

Nick Page

Nick moved to Cumbria from London in 2010 to be closer to family and took up a headship in Carlisle. His three children attended a local primary school and are now enjoying life at QEGS. Nick's current role is as Executive Headteacher across three local primary schools; Beaconside, Clifton and Milburn.

Chris Pyle

Chris Pyle has been Head of Lancaster Royal Grammar School since 2012. He is Executive Lead for the NNW Maths Hub which leads CPD across Cumbria and north Lancashire. He is also Chair of the State Boarding Forum and Director of the Boarding Schools Association. He brings to the Board experience of Grammar school leadership, with commitment to academic excellence, extracurricular opportunity and social mobility.

Neil Ruddick

Neil retired to Cumbria in 2012 to join his wife and child (now Year 8) after thirty years in Merseyside Police as an inspector in South Liverpool. He has dealt with the wide variety of incidents that you might expect in posh areas where Liverpool footballers might live, to the poorest in the country, in Toxteth and Speke. He is now self-employed.

David Sargent

David is the rector of Penrith. David trained as a teacher and then worked as an outward bound instructor before joining the ministry. Being at the heart of the Penrith community for the last 17 years he is committed to ensuring all the schools in Penrith are able to be successful in the future.

The role of members

Members hold the trust board to account for the effective governance of the trust but have a minimal role in the actual running of the trust. It is the trustee board, not the members, who are the organisation's key decision makers. However, there are some critical decisions that sit with the members, especially if the trust is failing. *

Members

Dr Mark Fenton

Dr Mark Fenton is Chief Executive of the Grammar School Heads Association. He was Headmaster of Dr Challoner's Grammar School for 15 years and was a National Leader of Education. He is a governor of four schools in the state and independent sectors.

Rebekah Gall

Rebekah was very proud to be Deputy Head at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School from 1997 to 2016, with responsibility for admissions, primary school liaison, pastoral matters and safeguarding, and she is keen to help the school in a new capacity. As a German specialist she worked as Head of Language Department and Head of Language Faculty in comprehensive schools in London and Hertfordshire. Rebekah is from Cumbria and has lived in India, Germany and the UK. She has lived in Penrith since 1997.

Rebekah took early retirement from Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in 2016 and since then, has managed and performed in Soul Junction, a Soul and Motown band. She plays the trumpet and keyboard.

Chair of Governors – By articles of Association

The Chair of Governors holds the dual role of being a member according to our articles of association. Once a chair has been elected by the trustees they will become a member.

*Definitions are provided by the National Governance Association. For more details of roles and responsibilities please see: <https://www.nga.org.uk/>