

Register of business and pecuniary interests

Members, Directors and senior officers · Updated September 2026

Appointment dates for Members and Directors are as recorded on Get Information About Schools (GIAS). Interests are as declared by each individual and are reviewed annually and cross-checked against the Companies House register.

Members

Name	Role	Appointed	Declared business and pecuniary interests
Gerald Miller	Member (appointed by the Trust)	1 February 2019	None
Liane Atkin	Member (original signatory)	1 February 2019	Assistant Director of Education – Newcastle Diocesan Education Board and Durham Diocesan Board of Education Chief Operating Officer – Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust
Gary Holmes	Member (original signatory)	1 February 2019	Vice Chair of Governors – UTC South Durham Director – Newcastle Diocesan Education Board Member – Newcastle Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council
The Rt Revd Mark Wroe, Bishop of Berwick	Member (original signatory)	22 January 2021	Trustee – Newcastle Diocesan Education Board Director – Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance Director – Together Newcastle Director – Just Finance Foundation Member – NEAT Academy Trust Member – Cheviot Learning Trust Trustee – North East Churches Acting Together Trustee – Charity of Bishop Chandler Member – Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust Trustee – Newcastle Diocesan Society
Jim Balkwill	Member (appointed by the Members)	11 November 2025	None

Directors

Name	Role	Appointed	Declared business and pecuniary interests
Gerald Miller	Chair of the Board of Directors	4 June 2018	None
Marian Stromsoy	Vice Chair; Chair of Achievement and Standards Sub-Board	4 June 2018	None
Ross Golightly	Vice Chair; Chair of Resources Sub-Board	4 June 2018	Director – SW Health & Wellbeing CIC Partner – GC Property Director – Sphera Consulting Ltd Non-Executive Director – Trend Bible Ltd
Rishi Kohli	Director	4 June 2018	Director – Cornel Ventures Ltd Member – Sweeney Miller LLP
Laura Joicey	Director	19 October 2020	Director – LJ CFO Services Ltd
Angi Gibson	Director	22 January 2021	Headteacher – Hadrian Park Primary School National Executive/Immediate past National President - NAHT
Peter de Wesselow	Director	6 February 2024	Designated Member – Belsay Estate LLP
Katherine Gianfreda	Director	6 February 2024	Governor – Newcastle School for Girls
Julia Hodgkinson	Director	23 September 2024	None

Senior officers

Name	Role	Appointed	Declared business and pecuniary interests
Kieran McGrane	Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	1 February 2019	Family connection to Leading Learning Ltd, provider of school improvement services at John Spence Community High School
Lynn Blain	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	1 February 2019	None
Claire Leightley	Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer	1 February 2019	None
Katie Spurr	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	1 September 2024	Family connection to Acting Headteacher at Ponteland High School
Jo Suddes	School Improvement Lead	1 January 2025	None

Former Members and Directors

Name	Role	Term of office	Declared business and pecuniary interests
Rob Kitching	Director	6 February 2024 – 2 June 2026	None
Maureen Bates	Member	1 February 2019 – 21 July 2025	Director – Ashfield Estates Ltd