

Trinity Governor Photos and Pen Portraits



Rachel Smith – Chair

With a career spanning over 25 years in the public sector, I bring extensive experience across Local Government, Education, NHS, Housing, and the Civil Service. My professional journey began in Human Resources within Local Government, specialising in employment conditions for teachers and support staff, and managing complex employment law requirements, including DBS checks.

Transitioning into ICT, I acquired critical insights into public procurement and commercial activity, overseeing numerous service support contracts. My subsequent role as a School Business Manager allowed me to lead and enhance the business operations of a school, including effective budget management and strategic development.

My tenure in the NHS involved participating in various board and committee meetings, which deepened my understanding of governance and assurance. Currently, as the Head of Integration at the Ministry of Defence, I am responsible for programme management and stakeholder engagement, demonstrating my versatility and commitment to effective organisational leadership.

In the academic year 2023, I chose to serve as a School Governor within my local community. This role enables me to leverage my skills, knowledge, and experience to contribute meaningfully to our school's development and the wider community. My career has always been focused on improving outcomes for people, and as a parent of five, my commitment to fostering positive, happy, and healthy environments for children is both personal and professional



Nick Rynn – Vice Chair

Following a 37 year career in the Army I spent 12 years working as an Expert Witness writing Employment Reports for the Courts. My speciality was the potential career prospects for soldiers who had been injured and medically discharged. My final two jobs in the Army were based at the Army Personnel Centre Glasgow. I was the lead career manager of a team that looked after half the Infantry's soldiers. My last job was working in the Army's internal complaints system, running a team preparing detailed reports for very senior officers.

Whilst based in Glasgow I was a volunteer with The Children's Hearings. Under Scottish law the Children's Hearings are the legally responsible authority for placing children into Social Service care and removing them from that care. I did this for 6 years acting as Chair of the Board in a significant number of Hearings.

My wife and I moved to Hereford in 2017 to help look after our two oldest granddaughters. I volunteered to be a school governor on arrival and was delighted to be asked to join the Team at Trinity School. I find the task exceptionally rewarding and was delighted to be invited to be Chair of Governors. It has been a real pleasure to work alongside and observe the extraordinary efforts of all members of the Trinity Staff; it is a wonderful school.

In addition to being a school governor I work as a generalist advisor with Citizens Advice Herefordshire. And, since I'm married to the Churchwarden, I had very little choice when I asked to be the Treasurer at Holy Trinity Church but to say yes.



Rebecca Bowen

I was appointed as the Local Authority Governor in November 2022. I am currently the link governor for SEND and sit on the Standards and Curriculum Committee. Hopefully, I can contribute towards making Trinity Primary one of the best, if not the best in the county.

I have been married for 29 years and have lived in the Whitecross area for most of this time. Both of my sons attended Trinity Primary School and I previously worked at the school as a HLTA. I feel my experience and understanding of day-to-day life in a school will help me in this role. I now work for the Local Authority and have gained further knowledge and experience which I would like to share.

I believe we have a responsibility to ensure all children have the best possible start in life through good education and social activities where each child is encouraged to fulfil their potential.



Saffron Truelove

I qualified as a teacher in 2001 after working as a NNEB in a variety of settings for 10 years. My first teaching post was within a three-form entry school in an inner-city school in Wolverhampton. After this I taught part-time in Herefordshire and then Gloucestershire while I raised my two children who are now both teenagers. I then returned to teaching full time in a rural Herefordshire school where I was EYFS lead and reached the post of Assistant Head Teacher before joining the team at Trinity Primary School.

I am proud to represent the staff on Trinity Governing body where I believe my professional experience and knowledge will enable me to carry out the role of a conduit between Governors and staff.



Anna Eccleston

I came to Trinity as a pupil from 1986 and I am proud of the fact that my daughter has now started on their primary school journey at Trinity and will be going into year 1 in September.

I attended Trinity, Aylestone and 6th Form studying music and theatre and moved away from Hereford in 2002 to start a 3 year acting course in London. Throughout college I worked for the NHS as a temp and a few years after graduating I started my career in the NHS and I have been there for 17 years. I currently work in improvement and transformation in specialised commissioning for NHS England and my portfolio contains programme lead for cardiac and spinal cord injury transformation for the South East of England.

I am still an avid music and theatre obsessive and have recently directed the Hereford Musical Theatre Company's production of All Shook Up. I have hosted many musical theatre open mics and performances around Hereford and will be performing in a concert of Phantom of the Opera at the Courtyard in August.

I am passionate about ensuring that my children have the best educational experience and being a parent governor on the board allows me to be involved and help the school continue to flourish.



Olivia Pope

I am the proud parent of three daughters and my eldest attends Whitecross, my middle daughter transferred to Trinity from another local primary school in 2024 and my youngest is set to join Trinity in 2025. From the first time we came to look around Trinity I felt that there was something truly special in the heart of the school and I took the opportunity to become a parent governor in October 2024. I am very proud to play a part in Trinity continuing to support every child to thrive and achieve their full potential.

I currently work in Quality Assurance at Herefordshire Council and have previously had roles at St Michael's Hospice and Hereford County Hospital. My role involves assessing the quality of support being provided by commissioned services for children and young people. The backbone of my work is the continuous improvement of services and ensuring that children and young people are receiving the best opportunities, support and care possible. I bring my skills from this work to my role as governor but also my parental perspective and experiences.

As a parent, my spare time is mainly taken up by ferrying my children to and from activities, but I enjoy being active and baking when I do get some down time. I also believe that being a part of your local and school community where you can is really important and I try to participate in the PTA when possible.



Charles Lewis-Gardiner

I am a Director of Sport currently leading the sports programme at Hereford Cathedral School, where I champion sporting excellence, inclusive participation, and holistic development for young athletes. I was appointed to this leadership role after a successful tenure at The King's School, Canterbury.

With a passion for school sport and youth development, I bring strong strategic insight into curriculum design, athletic coaching, and team performance. My work encompasses not only the oversight of competitive sport structures but also community engagement, partnerships with local clubs, and the enhancement of facilities and fixtures to benefit learners across all levels.

I am active in professional sport and education networks, frequently sharing insights and engaging with sector leaders on topics ranging from rugby and athletics programme development to broader trends in school sport participation. My approach blends operational excellence with a belief in sport as a powerful medium for personal growth.
