



Finlay Community School

ASPIRE

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ACHIEVE

1.07.2025

Reference: The Governing Board of Finlay Community School

Dear Finlay Community School,

I am pleased to introduce you to our new Governing Board.

Our Governing Board plays a vital role in supporting the school's leadership, providing strategic direction, and ensuring that every decision is made with the best interests of our pupils, staff, and wider community in mind. The members bring with them a wealth of experience, expertise, and commitment to our school's vision and values.

This new structure provides an exciting opportunity to build on our successes, strengthen our governance, and ensure that we continue to provide the highest standards of education and care for all our pupils. We are confident that this new chapter will bring positive outcomes for our entire school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Hannah Williams

Co – Headteacher

Hannah.Williams@finlay.gloucs.sch.uk



Michael Adlam

I'm Michael Adlam, a former pupil of Finlay Road Junior School (1957–1961), and I've spent over 50 years working in the pharmaceutical industry. I currently run two small pharmaceutical companies and hold a master's degree in business administration (MBA). Alongside my professional work, I've been deeply involved in education and charities for more than 35 years as a school governor and trustee, and I'm now a trustee and director of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Schools Trust. I'm a passionate believer that education is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children - it shapes futures and opens doors. Outside of work, I enjoy running and cycling, and recently completed the Land's End to John O'Groats ride.



Andrew Merrick

Bio

I'm thrilled to be joining the governing board. I'm a proud dad to Elsie (4) and George (6 months), with Elsie starting Reception this September. Watching her excitement has reminded me how pivotal a great school community is, and I'm eager to play an active part.

Professional Background

For the past 15 years I've worked in the technology sector—first in telecoms and enterprise communications, and now in cyber-resilience—partnering with some of the world's best-known blue-chip companies. My day-to-day focus is helping organisations stay connected, secure and future-ready in an increasingly digital world.

Why I Put My Hand Up

- **Mutual learning.** I'm keen to understand the real-world challenges of running a vibrant school—from budgeting and curriculum design to pupil wellbeing—and I expect to learn every bit as much as I contribute.
- **Digital insight.** I hope my experience in technology, risk management and data security can add value as the school navigates online-safety, digital literacy and STEM opportunities.
- **Community first.** Above all, I want every decision we make to put children, families and staff at the centre—starting with my own little learner and extending to every pupil who walks through our gate

Dan Williams

I am an insurance professional with a strong background in internal audit, governance, and risk management. In my current role, I regularly attend Board meetings and present to subcommittees, which has given me a solid understanding of strategic oversight and accountability at a senior level. I am also a founding member of my employer's Social Impact Team, where I played a key role in shaping the strategy and framework for charitable giving and employee volunteering. I also lead on partnership management with our long-term sustainable nonprofit partners around the globe, helping to build meaningful, purpose-driven relationships that deliver lasting impact.

Although the role of school governor is new to me, I'm eager to apply my professional experience in a meaningful way. I look forward to learning more about the education sector and supporting the school's leadership and staff in creating an environment where all pupils are empowered to thrive.



Dominic Johnson

I am a qualified lawyer currently working within Her Majesty's Government, with a strong commitment to public service and governance. Outside of my legal career, I volunteer as a football coach for an under-18s girls' team, supporting the personal development and confidence of young people through sport. I previously served as a governor at The Rosary RC Primary School in Stroud (circa 2015), where I gained valuable experience in school governance, including contributing to strategic decision-making and ensuring accountability in educational outcomes. I am keen to bring my professional skills and community-focused perspective to support the continued success of local schools.



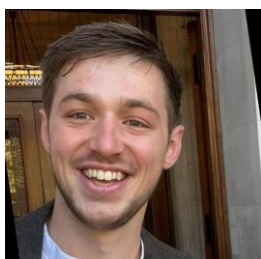
Hannah Williams

I'm Hannah Williams, proud Co-Headteacher of Finlay Community School. I first joined Finlay as a class teacher in 2012, became part of the leadership team in 2015, and have had the privilege of serving as a Headteacher since 2020. During my time here, I've seen our school grow from strength to strength, and I feel incredibly proud to be part of such a vibrant, bustling two-form entry primary school, which really is at the heart of the community. One of my favourite parts of the role is seeing what all of our children can achieve and celebrating those achievements together. I also love our wonderful community events, which really show what a special place Finlay is. As a governor, I am committed to working alongside our families, staff, and the wider community to ensure that the school continues to thrive. Outside of school, I'm a proud mum to my lovely boys, and I enjoy spending weekends in the caravan, usually at the beach when the sun is shining!



Tyler Harding

I am the Global Head of Marketing at Elevate Education, a company who specialises in teaching students how to study through their in-school workshops, and parents how to help at home through their fortnightly webinars. In my current role, I work closely with Elevate's offices in London, Sydney, Cape Town and New York, overseeing bringing new schools onboard right across the globe. Prior to joining Elevate, I received my PGCE through Teach First in the West Midlands, and was a Secondary School Mathematics Teacher in Birmingham, teaching students from Year 7 through to Year 11.



Heather Willis

With over 12 years of dedicated service to Finlay Community School, I bring a deep understanding of the school's ethos, values, and day-to-day life. Within my role on the leadership team, I play a role in shaping the school's strategic direction and supporting high standards of teaching and learning across all year groups, but with a focus on EYFS and Key Stage 1. I lead on Pupil Premium and am the Designated Teacher for Children in Care. I am passionate about ensuring that every child reaches their full potential in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment. I am proud to contribute to a governing body that strives for continuous improvement and puts children at the heart of every decision.



Mark Ricketts – Staff Governor

My name is Mark Ricketts, I sit on the governing board as a representative of the staff body. I have worked at Finlay Community School for almost a decade now and have been a governor here for the last three years. My wife and I have three school aged children who keep me busy during the evenings and weekends. I also play an active role in the life of our local church by teaching and leading the singing. I enjoy watching football and eating food!!



Rob Hopkins

A Gloucester native, I was a Civil Servant for over 40 years, taking early retirement in November 2017. Not ready to stop working completely, I now occupy a part-time position as a member of the Gardens Team at Cheltenham College; which allows me to indulge my love of gardening but is a far cry from sitting behind a desk. I am married to Sue who also works in education. Together we have two daughters and 3 grandchildren. My other hobbies include an interest in sport, particularly football, rugby and cricket although this now very much from a viewing perspective rather than participation. I can often be found on the terraces supporting Gloucester City FC at the weekend when time permits. I am looking forward to contributing to Finlay Community School as the new Board of Governors begin their support of the school.





Rosie Hart – Parent Governor

What a delight and joy to be elected to the Governing Board for Finlay Community School. Since my son came to this school I have been repeatedly impressed by the team with their inclusiveness, support, hard work and up beat warm welcomes. I've been lucky enough to have a very interesting life! I hope the variety of skills I have learnt as an Engineer, stay at home mum, BFN volunteer, refill shop manager and basket weaver will equip me to support the team at Finlay.

Gavin Evens – Parent Governor

I am delighted to be a Parent Governor at Finlay Community School. As a parent governor, I am eager to use my experiences in education to support the school and to ensure that parents are represented and heard with transparency and respect.



Alison Croft – Associate Governor

I have been the School Business Manager at Finlay Community School since September 2023 and can honestly say that I love my role! No two days are ever the same and I really enjoy the balance of supporting the day-to-day operations of the school as well as strategic decision making. I have a strong background in finance, operations, HR and compliance having worked in both the public and private sectors for the past 25 years. During my time at the school, I have led on process and policy improvements to ensure transparency and accountability within the school's operations.

I am passionate about ensuring that children and young people achieve the best possible outcomes and work closely with the leadership team to ensure that our decision making processes support school improvement and student achievement. Although the role of Associate Governor is new to me, I am looking forward to working with the new Governing Body to support financial understanding and development opportunities.

Outside of work, I enjoy frequent trips away in our campervan – especially those to the coast! I also enjoy walking, swimming and socialising with friends.

