

Fern Multi-Academy Trust (Fern MAT)

The Board of Trustees is the accountable body for Fern Multi-Academy Trust. It is constituted in line with the Trust's Articles of Association (September 2023), which outline the governance structure and composition of the Board.

Composition of the Board:

- Up to 9 Trustees, appointed by Members
- Up to 2 Co-opted Trustees, appointed by the Board
- The CEO is an ex-officio Trustee
- Staff Trustees may be appointed, provided they do not exceed one-third of the total Board

Core Functions of the Trust Board:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the trust and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the trust and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring compliance with statutory responsibilities, including safeguarding and SEND

Headteachers and parent advocates join every other board meeting to ensure consistent school representation and stakeholder engagement.

Declarations of Interest

Full Name	Initial Start Date	Start Date (Current Term)	End Date	Appointing Body	Declared Interests
Andy Goode (Chair)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	None declared
Rev. Mark Johnson	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Chair of Governors The federation of two Herefordshire schools, Much Birch C of E Primary School and St. Mary's, Credenhill C of E Primary School, local school boards, date started Sept 2021
Alison Naylor	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Director – Forward Focus Education, September 2022
Karen Morris	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Herefordshire Council Employee, Civil Servant – April 2001
Richard Preece	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Contracts Manager Halo Leisure Services Limited – August 2020
June Willis	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	None declared
Nina Purcell	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Trustee – I am chair of a Rotary group that has provided funding to St Martins School. January 2019
Joy Carroll	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2026	Members	None declared
Kirsty Sockett	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2026	Members	None declared
Members					

Katie Coughtrie	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Founding member	None declared
Martin Erwin	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Founding member	None declared
Joy Carroll	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	NA	Member	None declared
Senior Staff					
Emma Blankley (CEO) (Head)	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	NA	Board	None declared
Julie Worsfold (CFO)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Board	None declared
Claire Gibson (Head)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Board	None declared
Rachel Matthews (Head)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Board	None declared
Anna Priday (Deputy Head)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Board	None declared
Helen Osborne (EY Manager)	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	NA	Board	None declared

Trustee attendance 2025-26

Trustee	22/09/25	15/12/25	16/03/26	18/05/26	14/07/26	Total Meetings
Andy Goode (Chair)	√	A	√	A	√	3 / 5
Joy Carroll	A	A	A	A	A	0 / 5
Rev. Mark Johnson	√	√	A	√	√	4 / 5
Alison Naylor	√	√	A	A	√	3 / 5
Karen Morris	√	√	√	√	A	4 / 5
Richard Preece	√	√	√	√	√	5 / 5
Kirsty Sockett	√	√	√	A	A	3 / 5
June Willis	√	√	√	√	√	5 / 5
Nina Purcell	√	√	A	A	A	2 / 5
Nafisa Farooqui	A	A	A	A	√	5 / 5

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee attendance

Trustee	15/12/25	16/03/26	22/06/26	Total Meetings
Karen Morris (Chair)	√	√	√	3 / 3
Andy Goode	A	√	A	1 / 3
Rev. Mark Johnson	√	A	A	1 / 3
Richard Preece	√	√	√	3 / 3
Nina Purcell	√	A	A	1 / 3