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 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	Forward Focus Education (01/04/24 to present) Clerk to GBs and business of finance interests: BHBS, LHS, St Mary's RC High School, St Francis Xavier's, Almeley, Leintwardine schools
Karen Morris	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2028	Members	Herefordshire Council Employee, 04/12/17 to present
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
Nafisa Farooqui	18/05/26	17/05/2026	17/05/2030	Members	None declared

Emma Blankley (CEO)	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	31/08/2028	Members	Headteacher of Wellington Primary school within the Fern Academy Trust
Joy Carroll	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2026	Members	None declared (appt now ceased)
Kirsty Sockett	01/09/2024	01/09/2024	31/08/2026	Members	None declared (appt now ceased)
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 of Wellington)	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	NA	Board	None declared
Donna Wiles	01/09/2026	01/09/2026	NA	Board	CFO of TCAT
Julie Worsfold (Finance Manager)	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 for the 2025-26 academic year:

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	5/5
Richard Preece	√	√	√	√	√	3/5
Kirsty Sockett	√	√	√	A	A	5/5
June Willis	√	√	√	√	√	2/5
Nina Purcell	√	√	A	A	A	3/5
Nafisa Farooqui	-	-	-	-	√	1/5

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