

Local Governing Board Membership 2022-23

Rachael Norman - Chair of Local Governors



Rachael graduated from Manchester University with a BA Hons in History, and she also has an MA in History and a Doctorate in Education from King's College, London. She started her career in education 20 years ago as a History teacher in a Lambeth school. Rachael brings a depth of knowledge of the education sector as a past Headteacher and a passion for best practice in driving school improvement, her main objective is to improve the quality of teaching and learning to secure aspirational outcomes for pupils of all abilities. Rachael joined St Mark's Local Governing Board in 2018 and is the Chair of Local Governing Body and the link Local Governor for Quality of Education, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Outcomes and Safeguarding.

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick – Vice Chair of Local Governors



Southwark Diocese nominated governor, Elizabeth's background in School Improvement brings to the governing board experience in educational oversight and scrutiny. Elizabeth joined St Mark's Local Governing Board in 2016 and is the Vice Chair and the link Local Governor for both English, Values in Britain and Training.

Revd Nigel Stone



The Academy has strong links with our local parish church, St. Mark's, Mitcham. The Vicar, the Revd Nigel Stone has been a Local Governor since 2015, representing Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the local community.

Nigel has served as a minister for churches in Wandsworth, Lambeth and Merton and has also spent 12 years involved in adult education and ministry training across Southwark Diocese.

As vicar of the linked St Mark's Church in Mitcham, Rev Nigel is our community link Local Governor for Christian Ethos and Enrichment.

Ore Akande



Ore is a new Local Governor at the St Mark's since 2021 and has lived in Mitcham for over 20 years. He is currently a trainee solicitor in the city. He is keen to make an impact and is passionate about education for young people. When time permits, Ore enjoys watching and playing football, going to the cinema or catching up with friends. He is the link Local Governor for Behaviour and Personal Development.

Naushaba Awan



Naushaba is a family solicitor who, prior to her legal career, worked in fundraising and commercial sponsorship in the arts and not-for-profit sectors. Naushaba was brought up in Merton and her interest in local education opportunities led her to becoming a Local Governor at St Mark's in 2021. She values the emphasis on inclusivity, forgiveness and ambition at St Mark's. Naushaba is the link Local Governor for Marketing and People Recruitment.

Melody Thorpe



Melody Thorpe brings her Consulting career experience in Change Management and Business Transformation in large multi-nationals as well as the public and voluntary sector. She is also a Local Governor in a Church of England Primary School in Sutton Borough leading in Diversity & Inclusion and Marketing. She joined St Mark's Local Governing Board in 2022. At the Academy, she is the SEND link Local Governor as well as finance, business and communications.

Makeda Griffith



Makeda is currently a School Business Manager in a Secondary School and is undergoing a Masters in Strategic People Management. Makeda brings an unparalleled set of skills to any organization. She is adept at setting goals, strategizing, and managing resources to ensure successful results. She is proficient at coordinating with multiple stakeholders to ensure that projects are completed on time and within budget.

Makeda is passionate about education and has worked in this sector for 25 years ranging from the primary phase to higher education and is committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for pupils. She joined St Mark's Local Governing Board in 2023 and is the link Local Governor for Curriculum (6th Form) and Human Resources.