

## Local Governing Board Membership 2023-24

### 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.

### 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 (6<sup>th</sup> Form) and Human Resources.