

Trustees Information

Ben Rowell, Chair of Board of Trustees

Ben joined Walton Multi-Academy Trust as a founding trustee in September 2016 and was elected as the Trust's inaugural Chair. Ben has recently retired as a branch manager for Lloyds Bank after a 40-year career, 29 of which have been spent in senior management. Ben has worked with the education sector on a voluntary basis since the 1990s and was previously a governor at a local primary school as well as being Chair of Governors at Walton High School.

Steve Harris

Steve joined Walton Multi-Academy Trust as a founding Trustee in September 2016 and also serves as Chair of the Audit Sub-committee. Steve has recently retired from his position of consultant histopathologist at Royal Stoke-on-Trent Hospital for the mid-staffs NHS Trust. Steve has worked with the education sector on a voluntary basis since the mid-1990s and was previously Chair of the Finance Sub-committee at Walton High School.

Colin Horwath

Colin was appointed as a Trustee at Walton Multi-Academy Trust in July 2017. Colin enjoyed a successful career as a Partner at KPMG but has also contributed to the education sector as a Governor at Kingshurst CTC in Solihull. Colin also has experience of serving on an NHS Trust Board through his work as a Trustee at The Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Neil Finlay

Neil is the Accounting Officer of Walton Multi-Academy Trust as well as the Head Teacher of Walton High School and he joined the Trust board at its inception in September 2016. Neil has worked in education since 1990, initially as a teacher of MFL in Derby, then as Head of MFL, Head of Sixth Form and then Deputy Head Teacher at a very large school in Birmingham before being appointed Head Teacher of Walton High School in January 2008. Neil is also a Governor (and Chair of the Education Committee) of an independent co-educational school in Nottingham.

Steve Frodsham

Steve joined Walton Multi-Academy Trust as a Trustee in September 2019 and sits on the Audit Sub-Committee. He retired from his position as Deputy Director (Intelligence) in the National Crime Agency in 2014, after a long career in UK and international law enforcement, which included a posting as a Liaison Officer at the British Embassy in Paris. Before taking up his Trustee role, Steve had been a Governor at Walton High School for four years and was vice chair of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Gillian Richards

Gill joined Walton Multi-Academy Trust in September 2019 after initially being a governor at the school. Gill retired as a Headteacher of a local primary school in 2018 after holding that position for 12 years. Prior to this Gill taught in Birmingham and Walsall, starting her 38-year career as a science teacher in a high school. During her career as a head teacher she was recognised as a Local Leader in Education and supported many local schools