

The Blue Kite Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, c/o Ferndale Primary and Nursery School, Wiltshire Avenue, Swindon SN2 1NX Company Number 0988981



Nigel Tucker

Nigel has been working within the Department for Work and Pensions for several years in a range of roles across Southern England. Historically he has led large operational teams managing Jobcentres at County level in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Thames Valley, although he has also had brief secondments working in private sector IT companies and at DWP London head office in Whitehall.

Most recently Nigel held a project Management Role, managing the delivery of a range of activities and functions to deliver the new DWP flagship Universal Credit Scheme. Initially his focus was within the South West, but recently responsibilities have expanded to cover the wider Southern England geography.

Nigel was previously the Chair of Governors at Ruskin Junior School which saw the school infrastructure grow, and the school developing academically. When he relinquished this role and he was delighted to be invited by the Trust to be a Member of BKAT.

Nigel has for many years been a member of the Methodist Church in Stratton, and is part of the Methodist Church leadership team for the North Wiltshire Circuit of the Methodist Church.

Professional Qualifications:

Master's Degree in Business Management (MBA)



Pauline Miller

Pauline is Chair of the BKAT Trust Board. Pauline has been a primary teacher and a deputy headteacher, teaching throughout the primary age range before becoming an English Adviser in several counties, and then a Senior School Improvement Adviser with Swindon Borough Council. She then moved to a national role working as a Senior School Improvement Adviser within the South West region and leading several school based national projects.

In 2011 Pauline moved back to working more directly with headteachers and leadership teams in different SW primary schools, undertaking a wide range of activities including supporting leaders in their improvement journeys, self-evaluation, monitoring and evaluation processes, before recently retiring.

Professional Qualifications

BA Politics and Law

Post Graduate Certificate in Education



Philippa Hemmings

Before becoming a Member, Philippa was a long-standing Governor for Robert Le Kyng Primary School in Swindon taking on various roles including link governor for maths and safeguarding, chair of the Resources Committee and being involved in Headteacher performance management.

Philippa has a strong interest in education, especially early years and STEM, public sector governance, stewardship and accountability.

Since 2018 Philippa has been Head of Healthcare Technologies at EPSRC within UKRI with strategy, stakeholder relationships, budgetary and team management responsibilities. Her role involves working with universities, business, charities, and Government to identify priorities for research funding, and ensure funding is distributed to achieve high quality outcomes that can be evidenced. She is also joint Head of Assessment Centre EPSRC since 2018 managing the recruitment of portfolio manager recruitment

Previous roles include secretary to EPSRC Council and Head of Corporate Planning & Evaluation at EPSRC

Professional Qualifications

PhD in Chemistry

MBA

Professional qualifications in project, programme and risk management



Laura Brierley

Laura started teaching in 1979 and continued to work in education until retirement in July 2023. Her teaching experience was varied and leadership roles included working as deputy head at two local schools – Penhill Junior and Lyneham Junior – and head teacher at both Brinkworth Earl Danby's VC CE Primary and Catherine Wayte Primary School. In addition, Laura worked as an LLE (Local Leader of Education) supporting school leaders and has worked with Blue Kite schools as a member of the Blue Kite leadership team.

Laura is a member of the PCC at St Sampson's Church and is actively involved in various aspects of church life including Eco Church. Laura brings experience as head teacher of a church school – where OFSTED graded the school 'good' and the SIAMS inspection judged the school to be 'outstanding'.

Professional Qualifications

Bachelor of Education

Diploma in Professional Studies in Education

National Professional Qualification for Headship

Local Leader of Education