

GOVERNORS' PEN PORTRAITS

Name	Type	Pen Portrait
 <p data-bbox="174 930 327 959">Dora Blake</p>	Community	<p data-bbox="667 544 2175 874">Dora is a qualified Life Coach working with clients to develop and increase personal resilience and wellbeing. She provides coaching, mentoring and resilience building training through her consultancy business Headway Learning and Development Ltd. She is knowledgeable and experienced in leadership, coaching, partnership working and governance. For over ten years she has served in various roles as trustee and non-executive director. Dora was Chair of a Manchester based Housing Association for five years, until her retirement in April 2016. In that time she led the modernisation of the organisation with a focus on partnerships, excellence, learning and innovation underpinned by strong governance. Currently Dora is involved with several organisations operating within Greater Manchester; serving in advisory and strategic capacities; including Collaborative Women Uk, Limelight Management Committee and GMCVO board.</p> <p data-bbox="667 922 2175 994">Optimistic in her outlook and passionate about enabling people to grow and fulfil their ambitions; she is excited to be joining the governing body at Dean Trust Ardwick.</p>
 <p data-bbox="165 1433 338 1461">Arlene Bulfin</p>	Community	<p data-bbox="667 1066 2175 1289">Arlene adopted Manchester as her home in 2009 when she decided to move here to study for her PGCE in Business and IT Education in Manchester Metropolitan University. After four years teaching at schools in Greater Manchester, including her NQT at The Dean Trust Ashton on Mersey School, Arlene joined UKFast to help create the Training, Education and Development team. The team works with more than 50 schools and 57,000 students in the region to promote IT and digital education. The programme that Arlene and the team have built includes a double-award-winning apprenticeship scheme and has developed UKFast's workforce into one of the most qualified tech teams in the country.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1326 2175 1385">Arlene was promoted to Director of People Development in 2016 to help support all members of the UKFast team in their professional and personal development.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1422 2175 1513">Arlene is incredibly passionate about inspiring girls to consider a career in the tech industry. She believes that businesses like UKFast have a responsibility to engage with schools and inform their students about the rewarding career opportunities the technology industry provides.</p>



Suzanne Finlay

Ex-Officio

Suzanne started her career over 30 years ago as a primary school teacher in Beswick in her home city of Manchester. She was in primary education for nine years before moving to the secondary sector and has worked in six different Local Authorities in the North West before returning to Manchester to take up this post.

After making the hard decision to move into secondary education, Suzanne worked for eight years as a Head of Music in an inner city Liverpool comprehensive school. During her time there she was also Head of Year and Head of Sixth Form, from which she was appointed Assistant Headteacher at St John Plessington Catholic College on the Wirral, where she contributed to two consecutive outstanding Ofsted inspections.

It was at this school that she learned how to be an effective senior leader and gained her NPQH. Suzanne was responsible for a variety of areas, but her main interest and skill lay in pastoral care and behaviour. She was seconded as Deputy Headteacher to support a school in St Helens, from which she was appointed Deputy Headteacher at Lymm High School.

All Suzanne's experience has provided her with the confidence and skills to take on this unique role of building a school from scratch. She enjoys seeing the school grow in strength, building relationships with pupils, staff, parents, the community and the Trust. Now at the culmination of her career, as Headteacher she can confidently put her own 'stamp' on a school by developing the culture and ethos and setting the standards she strongly believes in and know to be right for this school. Suzanne has a sharp eye for detail, and a determination to see things through to successful completion. She has learned resilience, and works with the energy and commitment that she expects from staff and pupils. Suzanne believes in honesty and openness, and is loyal to her staff, pupils, parents and the Trust. It is Suzanne's wealth of experience that enables her to establish firm foundations for Dean Trust Ardwick's future as a successful school.



Sarah Gooch

Parent

Sarah is a qualified teaching assistant and has worked in the local community all her life. She has a passion for helping and supporting children with special educational needs and has first-hand knowledge on the subject. She has a wealth of training on Autism, ADHD and anxiety issues in young adults and hopes to use this to help build Dean Trusts understanding and support for all students.

She is excited to be a parent governor at Dean Trust and help all students to achieve their best.



Michelle Gray

Community

Michelle is a solicitor at Kennedys Law LLP.

Michelle advises and represents private and public sector organisations in a variety of sectors on all aspects of employment law.

Michelle also acts for clients in relation to disputes in the workplace, including exit arrangements / settlement agreements, breach of restrictive covenants / injunction work.

Michelle also works in industry as a board trustee for a charity which supports individuals with mental health issues.



Neill Harris

Community

Born and educated locally, Neill has lived in and around Manchester throughout his life. A former Headteacher and Teacher of History currently working in the capacity of a self-employed Project Consultant on a number of educational projects. Neill has considerable experience and expertise in a number of high profile educational roles including, Senior Inspector (Warrington LA), NW Regional Advisor (Training Development Agency) and as a Senior Civil Servant (DfE). His experience has enabled him to work as a lead professional in many challenging circumstances, tackling underachievement and poor performance whilst aiming to secure high quality outcomes for all children, young people and their families. Neill has a wealth of governance knowledge and experience having previously been a Governor in both primary and secondary schools.



Stephanie Jenkins

Community

Stephanie is a biomedical scientist by profession and has spent the majority of her career working in acute hospitals across Greater Manchester. As a senior NHS manager she has a wide experience and expertise in governance, operational, performance and financial management. Her main focus has been the provision of outstanding, quality, patient centred care, delivered to the highest of standards.

Stephanie has a Ph.D. From The University of Manchester and is a Fellow of The Institute of Biomedical Science. As a trained mentor she is particularly passionate about promoting STEM subjects and is keen to encourage and aspire pupils to go to university and seek careers with a STEM background.

Stephanie feels privileged to be part of the governing body at Dean Trust Ardwick and is looking forward to being the governor lead for SMSC.



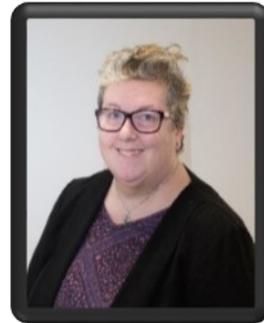
Helen Li

Community

Helen joined the Governing Body of The Dean Trust in academic year 2016/17, as a community representative for the secondary school in the Ardwick area of Manchester. As well as contributing to committee business and ongoing policy, she forms part of a working group with a number of other governors that review the Dean Trust Ardwick curriculum. For this, Helen draws on her experience of course planning and academic review across the university and college sectors.

From her current leadership role in student affairs and education management, Helen also ensures that the Trust is fully committed to the safeguarding of pupils, along with their transition as learners into school and then successfully beyond into society.

Helen devotes much time to her own continuous professional enhancement, and so is a strong advocate of the Trust encouraging pupils to have self-belief, to progress intellectually and socially, as well as for them to succeed personally in their further development.



Helen Milner

Staff

Helen Milner is a Mathematics teacher who has worked at Dean Trust Ardwick since it opened in September 2015. Prior to that she has taught mathematics at other schools for 14 years, and has held the posts of Second, and Head of Department during those years. She became a staff Governor in Autumn 2016.

Prior to teaching Helen ran a small business but gave that up and at 38 moved to Manchester from Cumbria to go to The University Of Manchester where she gained a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics.

Helen is married to Alec, and they have 6 grown up children and 7 grandchildren.



Alison Saunders

Parent

Alison is a born and bred Mancunian. As an ex pupil of Plymouth Grove Primary school, Alison struggled with school life until she found her passion in Drama at Levenshulme High School. This helped her to successfully navigate friendship groups and address low self-esteem in high school, and in her studies at Loreto College. Learning to express herself gave Alison a good grounding for her later work as a Teaching Assistant in Early Years. Her first-hand experience of teenage issues has meant she is well placed in her work as a Mental Health Support worker, which she thoroughly enjoys.

With four siblings, three daughters and one granddaughter, Alison enjoys a very busy family life. In addition, she enjoys giving back to her community and does so by volunteering in projects such as 'Stay and Play', 'Wake Up, Shake Up', Boxercise and keep fit classes, as well as other outreach ventures.

Alison's varied experiences have taught her much about cultural diversity that it has given her the confidence to develop her vibrant and proactive work within her childhood community. She is delighted to have been elected as the new Parent Governor for Dean Trust Ardwick and is keen to help grow the school and the wider community of Ardwick.



Niki Taylor

Staff

Niki has worked at Dean Trust Ardwick since 2016. She is currently Safeguarding Deputy Lead alongside Pupil Support Manager.

Niki was a foster carer for 10 years for her local authority and also helped to deliver 'skills to foster' course to newly qualified foster carers.

Niki brings over 13 years of experience being on the committee for Manchester City Ladies Football Club, initially as fund raising coordinator, then liaison officer, safeguarding officer and finally vice chairperson.

Niki has been married for nearly 25 years and has 3 children and 2 Labrador puppies.

Niki is passionate about her role in school and helping young people to improve their life skills and opportunities alongside helping them to overcome barriers to learning.



Dean Warren

Community

Outside of school, Dean is an Associate Director at an international technology consultancy. He has 27 years' experience as a management consultant and technologist, helping his customers to reduce cost and increase quality and gain a competitive edge through better control of their data. His customers mainly include Banks and other Financial Institutions but he has spent time working with smaller companies and has also been the operations manager at a start-up company.

At home he is a father of two children and was previously a governor at his local primary school. His core values are rooted in his love for his family and a desire to see them succeed.



Andy Wilson

Community

Andy has extensive experience working in housing and regeneration in local government and in the social housing sector, mainly in inner city locations. More recently he has led major regeneration programmes in Moss Side, Hulme, Wythenshawe, and Ardwick.

He has served as a director on the Board of Eastland Homes, overseeing investment and management of over 9000 homes in East Manchester.

In the education sector he has experience as a governor on an IEB at a high school in south Manchester. He has a particular interest in ensuring that young people at DTA realise their full potential and play a successful role in Manchester's future.