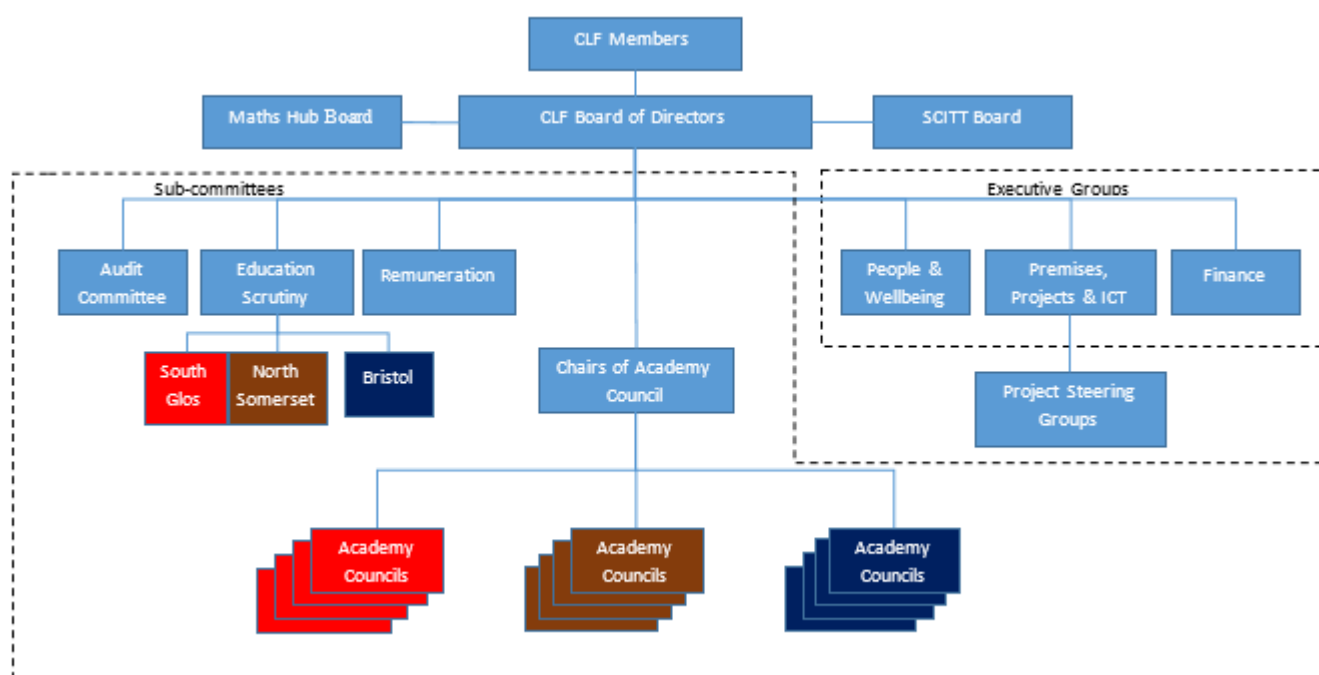


## Governance within a multi-academy trust

City Academy is part of the Cabot Learning Federation, a multi-academy trust that is responsible for a number of academies across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. Governance for a multi-academy trust operates at two levels. At trust level, there is a Board of Directors. The directors are accountable to the Department for Education and external government agencies, including the Charity Commission, for the quality of the education the trust provides and the effective use of the associated academy funding. They are required to have systems in place through which they can assure themselves of quality, financial probity, safety and good practice. The Board is provided assurance on a number of these areas through various sub-committees, as shown in the diagram below. For further information about the Board, please click here. <https://www.clf.uk/governance/meet-the-board/>



At a local level, each academy has an Academy Council comprising of up to 13 Academy Councillors. Academy Councils are responsible for holding Principals and their leadership teams to account for the quality and effectiveness of the academic experience of the students under their care with the aim of securing effective school improvement. They do this through monitoring performance against an annual academy improvement plan, through monitoring risks and responses to risks, and by overseeing systems and processes for the safeguarding of children and the health, safety and wellbeing of academy staff.

**At City Academy Bristol**, we have a diverse Council with a wide range of skills and experience, who are committed to the academy and making sure all our students, parents and community see us as their local school of first choice, which gives students the education they deserve so that they can progress successfully to further or higher education, training or work.

If you want to contact the Chair (or any Academy Council members), please email the Clerk to the Academy Council [linda.corbidge@clf.uk](mailto:linda.corbidge@clf.uk). Please make your *email subject line with FOA Chair of Academy Council*).

**These are our Academy Councillors ...**

**Chair of Academy Council (and Safeguarding, SEND, PSHE & RSE Link): *Ruth Pickersgill MBE***



I am honoured to have been Chair of City Academy Council for several years. I was originally a teacher, now retired, but having most recently worked in the Leadership Team at a local sixth form college and a large FE college in the Midlands. Until early 2021, I was the Bristol City Councillor for Easton Ward (in which the school is based) and am also a trustee or Chair of a number of charities supporting disabled people or refugees.

All of my career has been in the field of equalities and education, and I am particularly committed to improving the outcomes and life chances of all the amazingly talented young people I meet in inner-city Bristol, where I have lived all my adult life. I want us to be an outstanding school, that is at the heart of the community, which everyone is proud of, and wants to attend.

**Sponsor Academy Councillor (and Vice Chair of Academy Council): *Joanna Tomlin***



I am a passionate Aerospace Manufacturing Engineer working in Bristol. I have always had a burning passion to help create equality in the world we live in. Being a keen national STEM ambassador, I have worked with Teach First to teach and facilitate workshops in schools within disadvantaged areas across the UK. I have supported councils in London by being a member of youth parliament, pushing campaigns, facilitating public strategy meetings, and debating in the House of Commons.

My love for creative learning opportunities developed as a SEN 1:1 and phonics teacher, as I thoroughly enjoyed curating inclusive school environments. I believe that teachers and the wider staff network play an important role for students by reinforcing positive social etiquettes, encouraging confidence, and nurturing talents.

As a City Academy councillor, I want to be an advocate for supporting cultures that are already transforming students learning and promoting new ideas that can enable further growth.

**Sponsor Academy Councillor: *Abdul Malik***



It is a huge privilege to join the City Academy as an academy councillor. I am a local businessman and Entrepreneur who was born, worked, and lived in Easton all my life, I have been a Governor for many years at a catchment primary school and I run the largest mosque in the city, Easton Jamia Masjid as chair of trustees. I have served as a city councillor in the past and I am currently serving as a magistrate. I am a qualified mediator and I help people on a voluntary basis to resolve issues and come together.

I enjoy giving back to the community that has given me so much, I like to work with young Bristolians to inspire the future generation of entrepreneurs and community activists.

**Sponsor Academy Councillor: *Abdi Mohammed***



Abdi is a Somali refugee who has lived and worked in Bristol for over twenty years. He is now a service coordinator at the Changing Future Project, a government-funded programme to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple complexities.

Abdi holds an MSc in Nutrition and Public Health from the University of Bristol and is an experienced public health, research, and community engagement practitioner. For the last ten years, he has worked with disadvantaged communities in health-related behaviours and people with multiple complexities, including substance use, mental health, and homelessness.

He has been a trustee of Bristol Somali Resource Centre since March 2016. Before joining BSRC, he was a trustee of Bristol Refugee Rights for four years and a public advisor for research at the University of Bristol. He is now interested in assisting young people to achieve their potential, mentoring them to reach higher education, and preventing health or social-related complexities in the early stage.

**Sponsor Academy Councillor: *Sejal Patel***



I am currently serving as the EDI lead and Deputy Head of Science at Sidcot School, North Somerset. Over the course of my 15-year teaching career I have held various middle management positions and have been fortunate to work in a variety of educational settings within both the independent and state sectors, catering to both co-educational and single-sex environments in the South-West. In 2008 I completed a PGCE in Science at the University of Bristol, and prior to this, I studied BSc Chemistry at King's College, London.

My dedication to creating an equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students has led me to actively participate in the Bristol Global Majority Teachers' Network. Together with like-minded educators, we work collaboratively to address inequalities and champion inclusivity. I am also proud to be a part of the Bristol Decolonising Network, where teacher-led initiatives are developed to challenge and overcome disparities within education.

I am excited to work alongside the staff in the role of school councillor to make a meaningful impact at City Academy.

**L A Representative: *Leah Dowty***



I am thrilled to bring my passion for high quality education to the role of Councillor at City Academy.

I spent a decade working in Hackney primary schools before moving to Bristol and working in initial teaching training. Over the last few years, I have worked with Teach First primary and early years trainees at Bath Spa University and I am now a Senior Lecturer at UWE Bristol teaching on the PGCE and BA (Hons) Primary Education.

I live locally to City Academy and am immensely proud to be part of a diverse, thriving local community. I am excited to support the school in its journey to developing our students to achieve the very best.

**Support Staff Academy Councillor: *Lucy Sibbald***



I have worked for the CLF for just over 3 years but joined City Academy in September 2021. I have a strong passion for working with students and offering the best possible support we can to help them feel successful.

I believe by being on Academy Council where everyone shares the same vision, we can achieve this for all our young people. Being support staff myself, I also feel it is important to have that voice for all support staff within the academy and be that advocate.

**Teacher Academy Councillor: *Claire Rodgers***



I have both pastoral and curriculum leadership experience and I am passionate about ensuring that every child has access to the education best possible. I firmly believe that raising literacy standards has to be at the forefront of everything we do. I wanted to become a representative so that I could support and challenge teaching and learning across the academy, provide the Academy Council with the views of staff and do my best for the local community.

**Student Advocate: *Nathan Richardson***



I am very excited to be part of the Academy Council! I joined City Academy as an Assistant Principal in May 2022. I currently lead on Culture and Ethos for Key Stage 4 and have taken the reigns on running Student Voice at our Academy. I have recently moved to Bristol from London, where I worked in a comprehensive secondary school for 10 years. As well as being a Religious Studies teacher, my experiences include being a Director of Studies, EDI lead, Wellbeing lead, SEN teacher and working within inclusion units.

I grew up and was educated in Tottenham, North London. It has been an honour already to teach and be a leader in Easton, which is a community very similar to where I was raised. I performed my undergraduate studies at Worcester University, where I studied Media & Cultural Studies and Sociology (Joint BA Honours). My postgraduate studies were performed at Roehampton University, where I completed my PGCE in Religious Studies. Since, I have completed further postgraduate training to be a fully qualified Maths teacher.

As a member of the Academy Council and a leader at CAB, I hope to help further enhance the CAB experience for our learners and be a leading school within Bristol.

**Parent Academy Councillor: *Cassie Tapper***



Details to follow

**Parent Academy Councillor: *Election Sept 2023***