



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE

ABOUT ST GEORGE'S AND CIDARI MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

St George's School is a Church of England Academy located on Cherry Tree Road, Marton, Blackpool. It operates as part of the Cidari Multi Academy Trust, a collaborative network that includes several primary and secondary academies across the region. The structure of Cidari allows for formalised, collaborative working while ensuring that the individual characteristics, distinctiveness, and ethos of St George's continue to thrive.

Cidari operates with clear levels of governance to avoid muddled remits and ensure strict accountability. The Trust operates with Members, a Board of Trustees, and Local Governing Committees (LGCs).

Talent and Skills First: Trustees are appointed based on the specific skills they bring to the board to ensure the academic and financial success of the trust, generating the best outcomes for learners.

Aligned Autonomy: The Board of Trustees has overall accountability in law for the performance and overall running of the Trust, but they delegate decision-making for certain functions directly to the St George's Local Governing Committee, allowing for local monitoring while maintaining trust-wide accountability.

Members: The Members act as the protectors and custodians of the trust. They hold the Trust Board to account for the effective governance of Cidari, though they have a minimal role in the day-to-day running of the academies. They sign the company documents (which set out the trust's core purpose), have the power to appoint Trustees, and attend the annual general meeting. The Members of Cidari include prominent figures from the Diocese:

- Rt. Rev. Philip North (Bishop of Blackburn)
- Rt Rev. Joe Kennedy (Bishop of Burnley)
- Rt. Rev. Dr Jill Duff (Bishop of Lancaster)
- Ven. David Picken (Archdeacon of Lancaster)
- Iain Parks (Diocesan Director of Education)
- Stephen Whittaker (Diocesan Secretary)
- Rev. Paul Robinson (Chair of Trustees)

Trustees: The core governance functions of the trust—such as setting the strategic direction, ensuring sound financial use, and holding the CEO and Headteachers to account—are the responsibility of the MAT Board of Trustees. They are the organisation's key strategic decision-makers. Some of the Trustees specifically serve as representatives of the Diocese of Blackburn Board of Education and Board of Finance. The current Board of Trustees (serving four-year terms of office) includes:

- Rev. Paul Robinson (Chair of Trustees)
- Jo Venn (Vice Chair)

- Peter Ashworth (Chief Executive Ex Officio / Leader of Learning)
- Rev Claire Cooke
- Helen Davies
- Reverend Tracy Hallows
- Canon Daphne Jordan
- Puyan Mani
- Paul Mason

The Local Tier of Governance (Local Governing Committee): Cidari ensures that each individual academy, including St George's, has its own Local Governing Committee (LGC).

The St George's LGC is tasked with maintaining the school's specific representation and protecting the individual Christian ethos of the academy. The LGC closely monitors the needs of St George's on a local level and includes elected parents to ensure the community maintains a direct and meaningful input into the governance of their school. Ultimately, the MAT Board of Trustees works alongside the LGC to ensure this distinct ethos is protected in accordance with company documents. The current local governing committee consists of:

- Cheryl Drabble: Chair and Trust Appointed Foundation Governor,
- Jo Venn: Acting Vice Chair and Trust Appointed Foundation Governor,
- Graham Warnock: Headteacher (serving ex-officio).
- Carolene Sargeant MBE: Trust Appointed Foundation Governor
- Carly Dawson: Trust Appointed Foundation Governor.
- Chris Connaughton: Staff Governor.
- John Kerr: Staff Governor.
- Lindsey Taylor: LGC Appointed Parent Governor.
- Ben Whittaker: LGC Appointed Parent Governor.

