

Trustee Pen Portraits - Educate Together Academy Trust

Kate Aldworth, Trustee

Kate Aldworth is a marketing professional with twenty years' experience in client management, customer insight, marketing research and marketing operations. Kate has worked for BBC Worldwide, De Agostini and, for more than a decade prior to her move to the southwest, for Transport for London. At TfL, Kate worked on a range of high profile environmental, public safety and customer information campaigns, including Safer Travel at Night, Congestion Charging, Low Emission Zone, Source London (Electric Vehicle charge points) and Cycle Hire 'Boris Bikes'. On moving back to the southwest (Kate grew up in Bath), she founded 'SoundProof Audio' – a spoken-word post-production agency - working with publishers such as Penguin Random House, Audible and Hachette. Kate lives in Keynsham, near Bristol, with her husband and two children, both of whom are at an Educate Together school. In her spare time, she plays the flute in a local amateur orchestra, in a Quintet and in a funk band.

Kathy Brown, Trustee

Kathy Brown is a senior lecturer in law at the University of the West of England. Her decision to study law emanated from her study of Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mocking Bird' at the age of 14 and the failure of the (American) legal system to exercise equality for all, leading to injustice. Her legal interests have always centred around equality. Her doctoral research considered the socio-legal impact of the interplay between the well-established law relating to special educational needs in schools and the introduction of disability law to all educational settings and the impact of this on the provision of school education. Kathy is an award-winning university teacher and this is based on her commitment to providing an inclusive educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom. She has three adult children who she describes as very different. The experience of her youngest who failed to thrive and was unhappy in his primary school provided her with a practical focus for her ideology of the need for schools to find the talent and gift in every child; he is now a graduate of music from the University of London. Kathy volunteers as a selector for VSO and as a coach with high impact families in North Somerset. She is a member of the Education Steering Group of a UK charity called Justice Defenders, which provides legal education to prisoners in East Africa. She also works for them as an expert volunteer. Kathy's main passion is outdoor swimming and is a happy 'Sugar Loafer' – a Bristol Channel swimmer from where she lives in Portishead.

Vicky Counsell, Trustee

Vicky has worked in education for over twenty years. Following the completion of a Business Management degree, she completed a SCITT course to gain a PGCE in Primary Education in Somerset. After spending over a decade working in education in Somerset, Vicky moved into Bristol and has since held three Principal roles in schools within Bristol. In her spare time, Vicky enjoys sailing, running and spending time with her family.

Andrew Goodall, Trustee

Andrew was appointed a Trustee of ETAT in 2017 and was Chair of Trustees 2019 to 2023. He retired after 40 years in the Aerospace industry including 20 years in Toulouse, France. His career with BAE Systems PLC included Company Secretary appointments within the Civil Aircraft and Guided Weapons Divisions before being appointed Vice President, Aircraft Sales Finance responsible for worldwide customer and export credit financing of the company's BAe 146/Avro Regional Jet programme. Andrew then joined AIRBUS Group HQ and led a multi-national team responsible for internal audits across all the Group's Divisions, Subsidiaries and Joint Ventures, worldwide. Andrew was awarded an Economics degree at the University of Hull and was appointed a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute. Currently Andrew is a Trustee of the national charity "Hope For Tomorrow" (which is dedicated to bringing cancer care closer to patients' homes via mobile chemotherapy units), a Men's Hockey umpire and a very keen supporter of Birmingham City FC.

Lesley Jones, Trustee

Lesley's career included, personal secretary to the Managing Director of a cemetery and crematorium and medical secretary based at a Health Centre in Bristol. Prior to training as a social worker, she worked as the administrator on the Avon Drugs Monitoring Project (ADAM) in a team comprising a consultant paediatrician, senior registrar, senior community psychiatric nurse and principle social worker. Lesley's social care career had a focus on child protection, listening to the child and Early Years. Her first post was as the social worker and court officer in the Family and Youth court, moving on to the social work team in the Royal United Hospital, Bath. During her time working at the RUH Lesley had the opportunity of a placement in the Family Therapy team. She carried a caseload with supervision provided by the senior clinical psychologist. To develop her skills in 'duty' work and crisis intervention Lesley sought the post in the referral and assessment team, the duty 'front door' service with a priority on child protection and court work, where she worked for seven years. During that time Lesley achieved the postgraduate 'Post Qualifying Advanced Social Work award' (Child Care). (PQSW.) As an accredited Practice Teacher she supported students on social care placements, she was also responsible for embedding the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across agencies and developed the Threshold for Intervention document for entry to social care services. Lesley then progressed to the post of senior practitioner managing the newly formed Early Years Team (EYT) which comprised a Family Centre, two nurseries, a family support team and sponsored day care. With the group manager she produced the first cohesive Early Years Team Plan. She was also the strategic lead for the multi-agency Joint Early Years Allocation Team (JEYA), managed the Service Level Agreements for Barnardo's and a pre-school Opportunity Play Group for children with additional needs. Achieving the role of the EYT manager she produced the B&NES Family Support Strategy and managed the merging of two nursery services to family support services. The EYT transferred to the B&NES Education directorate and promoted to the EYT senior manager Lesley conducted the transition of the EYT to twelve Children Centre Services and a Family Support Team.

Lesley's last post was managing the Children and Family's Duty Team where she had to determine the level of risk and action required for referrals received. As a local authority manager Lesley investigated Stage 2 and 3 complaints which she continued after retiring. Throughout her career she facilitated training including, 'Listening to Young Children' jointly with a Children's Society worker, co-facilitating Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSE) training with an area SENCO and Introduction to CP training to students on the Early Years Foundation degree course. Having retired Lesley volunteered in the Coroner's Court offering support to the bereaved attending the court, the Bath Carers Centre including being part of a team providing a module for social work students which carried the responsibility to assess, pass or fail the students' work and as a Trustee for Keynsham Food Bank. In February 2020 Lesley took on the role of link safeguarding and SEND governor at Somerdale Educate Together primary school and in November 2022 the role of link Safeguarding governor at Parklands Educate Together primary school.

Lesley was born in London and lives in Keynsham with her husband. They have recently discovered the fun of exploring in a motorhome and last year completed a trip the on the North Coast 500 in Scotland. They have a married son and three grown up grandchildren with whom they have a close relationship.

Fiona Lynch, Trustee

Fiona Lynch has extensive experience of professional fundraising and charity communications, having worked for over 20 years across both the commercial and charity sector, with a particular focus on developing income and services in the not-for-profit sector. She has a solid track record in strategic planning, service development, and project management.

Fiona's career has spanned time in media and broadcast working in the Channel 4 Press Office, followed by a move into professional fundraising and charity communications, raising millions of pounds for various causes, including The Holburne Museum; Penny Brohn Cancer Care; Alive Activities specialising in wellbeing and dementia care for older people in care; and Play Resource the centre for arts, play and education for Northern Ireland. Fiona now enjoys the flexibility of running her own consultancy and coaching business.

She graduated from Leeds University with a BA Hons in Economic & Social History, and has a Barefoot Coaching Post Graduate qualification and is a registered member of the International Coaching Federation.

Fiona joined ETAT as a Trustee in 2022, following two years as Chair of Governors at Redfield Educate Together giving her a strong understanding of local governance for schools. Both her children have attended an Educate Together school, with one leaving in 2021 as the first Y6 cohort to transition to secondary school.

Both her children joined Redfield 'in year' in 2018 from an Educate Together School in Northern Ireland. Fiona is a passionate advocate of the Educate Together ethos and values the Learn Together Curriculum's positive impact for children.

Fiona lives in Bristol with her family, two children of school age and two lazy cats, and enjoys the seasonal rewards of time on her allotment.

Holly Ralph, Trustee

'Holly lives in Bristol with her husband and their two young sons, aged one and three. They value the energy and diversity of city life, while regularly escaping to North Devon, where their wider family is based and where they enjoy spending time outdoors running, hiking and surfing together.

Holly has been teaching for eight years and currently works as a primary school teacher in an inner-city Bristol school. She is the Science Curriculum Lead and has experience mentoring Early Career Teachers. Holly has extensive experience of developing and implementing evidence-based curriculums and policies in educational settings. She is nearing completion of an 18-month School Leaders Apprenticeship Programme, which has been both eye-opening and instrumental in developing her leadership, strategic thinking and school improvement skills. Alongside this, Holly is currently undertaking the NPQ for SENCOs, reflecting her strong commitment to improving inclusive practice and outcomes for all pupils.

Before moving into teaching, Holly worked in healthcare as a Physiologist in disease prevention, following completion of an MSc in Public Health. This background has given her a strong understanding of wellbeing, prevention and evidence-based practice.

Holly chose to become a trustee because she is passionate about education and wants to play an active role in supporting school improvement and ensuring high-quality, inclusive education for every child.'

Cameron Shaw, Trustee

Cameron has spent over twenty years working in education within Bristol. Cameron has over a decade of experience in school leadership and has spent the last eight years as a serving secondary school headteacher. As a qualified maths teacher, Cameron has held many positions within secondary and post-16 education both in the classroom and within senior leadership teams.

Born in Scotland, spending his teenage years in the Midlands and then travelling to the South West for study, Cameron graduated with a degree in Aerospace and Avionics engineering before training as a teacher.

Cameron lives just outside Keynsham with his wife (also a teacher) and their two children who attend their local primary and secondary schools.

In his spare time Cameron enjoys DIY, running and keeping bees!

Annabel Thomas MacGregor, Trustee

Annabel is an experienced senior leader in the social enterprise, education and third sectors, with a strong track record of driving strategic growth, organisational transformation, and sustainable impact. She's currently CEO of Raised In CIC, a Bristol-based social enterprise delivering day nurseries in community spaces for the benefit of local working families. Annabel has worked for leading arts organisations The National Theatre and Rambert and worked on national bookgifting programme BookTime at BookTrust. She's also held senior leadership positions in international education charities, heading up business development across the UK for international performing arts and communication exam board Trinity College London, and running national and international oracy education programmes for an oracy education charity. In addition to being a Trustee of ETAT, she is on the Bristol One City Children & Young People's Board, and is also a Trustee of Bath Preservation Trust, a heritage and conservation charity.