

John Mason School Local Academy Committee: 2025-2026

GOVERNORS

Lynn Fathers, Chair of Governors	
Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 31 st August 2026
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Attendance
	<p>I've lived in Abingdon for nearly 40 years and have been involved in education, both in schools and with the Local Authority, for most of my life, working in a variety of roles including teaching, education and business support, service management and governance.</p> <p>I first became a governor at Fitzharrys School in 2003 attracted by the opportunity to contribute to the school's work. My initial commitment to a 4-year term of office turned into a much longer and extremely rewarding experience including more than 6 years as Chair of Governors before becoming a Trustee of the Abingdon Learning Trust in 2018.</p> <p>I am passionate about supporting and challenging school leaders, fostering partnerships and driving improvements in educational outcomes for all students.</p> <p>Having worked with John Mason School as a former parent, local Governor and Trustee over many years I was delighted to be appointed to the JMS Local Academy Committee as Chair in 2024.</p>

Louise Aukland, Governor	
Position	Elected Parent Governor: term ending 18 th March 2029
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)
	<p>I have worked in education for over 20 years as a teacher, curriculum author and schools based researcher (with an interest in neuroscience and wellbeing in young people). I am employed part time by the University of Oxford alongside my freelance work.</p> <p>I have two children, both of whom have been through John Mason and one now studies at JMF6. As a parent of a child with an EHCP and having worked in child and adolescent mental health research, I have lived experience of the challenges facing families and young people with SEND needs.</p>

Grace Challans, Governor	
Position	Elected Parent Governor: term ending 18 th March 2029
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Safeguarding
	<p>I work in school improvement and specialise in developing safeguarding practice, so can bring this knowledge and experience to the role of Governor.</p> <p>I enjoy the opportunity to support the school and work with such a great team of professionals. This role is the perfect opportunity for me to use my skills to support the community and ensure the pupils at John Mason have the best possible opportunities to be happy, safe and successful.</p>

Jean Challis, Governor	
Position	Elected Staff Governor: term ending 27 th November 2028
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Site Security
	<p>I became a Governor because my daughter came to John Mason School.</p> <p>I have spent 14 years living overseas with my husband's work so have experience of life and cultures in Kuwait, Iran, Brunei, and South Africa.</p> <p>I am on the John Mason Association Committee and am employed by John Mason School as an exams invigilator so see daily life in the school on a regular basis.</p> <p>I am a Trustee of the Welsh Farm so am closely involved with the administration, general running and maintenance of the property and buildings.</p>

Lindsey Chegwiddden, Governor	
Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 23 rd January 2028
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Sixth Form and Attendance LAC representative on JMF6 Committee
	<p>I live in Abingdon and have a son attending John Mason. I am employed by Oxfordshire County Council working in IT Services for the last 24 years.</p> <p>I was previously a primary school governor for 4 years at Thameside Primary. I got involved in school governance because I strongly believe a child's experience at school shapes their future and it is really important that all students have every opportunity to achieve and grow as people during their time at school.</p> <p>Being a governor allows you to see all of the hard work that goes into making sure that every student is seen, and every student is given the best chance to make a great start to their adult lives.</p>

Shivaprasad Mariswamy, Governor	
Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 17 th September 2028
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Behaviour
	<p>I completed my early education in India and later moved abroad to pursue higher education. With a professional background in engineering, I have worked in the automotive and nuclear industries, gaining valuable experience in structured problem-solving and systems thinking.</p> <p>My interest in understanding how school systems operate in the UK led me to the role of a school governor, where I saw an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of schools and supporting their continuous improvement. I currently focus on behaviour and related areas, aiming to bring a thoughtful and balanced perspective.</p> <p>This role has been a rewarding opportunity to both learn and contribute to the effective functioning of the school, while offering insights shaped by my experience as an engineering professional.</p>

Dominic Laurie, Governor

Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 11 th February 2030
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Stakeholder Engagement
	<p>I am a former BBC journalist, and now work as a Director of Communications for a software company. Originally from London, I now live in Abingdon, just down the road from John Mason School. I am also a governor at Carswell primary school.</p> <p>I studied languages at university, and after studies worked with the BBC for over a decade. I was a presenter of business news on BBC Breakfast, the Today program and BBC Radio 5 live. Since leaving the BBC I have worked in a variety of communications roles in the private sector.</p> <p>I have also worked as a university lecturer teaching journalism, and taught English for a year in a school in Rome.</p>

Abraham Oluwole, Governor

Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 15 th October 2029
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Educational Standards
	<p>I taught science and maths for 5 years before pursuing postgraduate degrees. I have been working as a research scientist at the University of Oxford for 7 years.</p> <p>Alongside my research career is a deep passion for mentoring young people to reach their full potentials, and I am excited to bring this experience and enthusiasm to the role of governor at John Mason.</p> <p>Serving as a governor is a meaningful way for me to contribute to my local community—supporting the school leaders in ensuring that pupils of all abilities have learning experiences that empower them to excel in studies and to thrive in life.</p>

Anthony Roberts, Governor

Position	Appointed by Trust Board: term ending 11 th February 2030
Portfolio role/s	Lead governor for Teaching and Learning
	<p>Originally from Scotland, I moved to England to study mechanical engineering at the University of Bristol. Having recently graduated, I am now working as a Design Engineer in Milton Park. I look forward to applying my expertise to the role of governor.</p> <p>Having mentored children with learning disabilities in high school, and having studied pedagogical modules in University, I have always believed in investing in education. Also, as a resident of Sutton Courtenay, I am keen to contribute to my community as part of the board of governors at John Mason School</p>