



Alpha Trust – Gilbert LGB Profiles 2025-26

Linda Gous	Debbie Emm	Richard Norfolk	Virginia Bevan
I have been a Governor at The Gilbert School since 2000. It is a role that I enjoy enormously. I have particular interest in Human Resources and the quality of teaching and learning, Performance Management, and Continued Professional Development and Wellbeing. I was appointed as a Trustee of the Alpha MAT in April 2018. Working as part of a dedicated governor group and a wider school team, our aim at The Gilbert School is to provide consistent, high-quality education and life skills for all students. In my professional life I have worked for a major corporate organisation in a human resources and organisation development role. Since 1995 I have been director of a primary teacher recruitment agency.	I have been a Governor at The Gilbert School since 2009. Prior to moving to Colchester, I worked for many years as a quantity and costing surveyor for a national house-builder. After moving to Colchester and having children, I became a swimming instructor working in primary schools and private swim schools. I now work part time in a local primary school with Key Stage 2 pupils. My three sons all attended The Gilbert School. They have since moved on to university. I have remained a Governor at The Gilbert as I enjoy the role and am fully committed to ensuring that every student within the school receives the best possible education to help them to reach their full potential. In my personal life I enjoy going to the theatre, swimming, and trying to keep fit!	I have been a Governor at The Gilbert School for the past twelve years, initially as a parent governor. My five children have enjoyed their secondary education at the school and are all now successful professionals in their fields. I have recently retired from a professional role as project and programme manager, leading globally diverse teams, in the implementation of global telecommunications solutions for multinational corporate organisations. My wife is a preschool teacher and I have a keen interest in the continuity and quality of teaching and learning of children, from their early years through to their readiness to embark on their professional career journeys.	Following 20 years working in legal finance and compliance, in recent years my professional world merged organically into legal compliance on a broader basis. This wealth of exposure to implementing compliance and procedures, business analysis, and awareness of the importance of inclusion and equality alongside, equips me with transferrable skills that I can lend to our Board. I also have a vested interest in wellbeing, and in my spare time I have studied subjects including children's mental health and awareness, and mental health 'first aid'. Raising two children I understand and value the importance of the schooling environment, and fully embrace the opportunity to "give back" to our wonderful schools, the students, and staff equally.
Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 8.12.21	Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 2.7.25	Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 2.7.25	Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 14.3.23
Appointed By: Trust appointed Governor	Appointed By: Trust appointed Governor	Appointed By: LGB Co-opted Governor	Appointed By: Parents
Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years

Harriet Bateman	Dex Dexierski	Emmanuelle Anning	Jo Rogers
I work as the Finance Director for a PR Agency. I have a degree in Business and Finance and I am also a qualified primary school teacher. I lived in Texas for three years, where I worked in a Montessori school. I have lived in Colchester for 20 years and worked for several years in a local primary school before returning to a financial career. All three of my children attended The Gilberd, one of whom is currently at the school. I believe a well-rounded education lays the foundation for future success and I'm committed to ensuring that all children continue to have this opportunity at The Gilberd. In my spare time, I enjoy travelling, exploring with my dogs, and volunteering with a local Beaver Scout group.	In October 2018, I assumed the role of Staff Governor. With a degree in Computer Science and over a decade of experience in IT, I strongly believe that my expertise can be instrumental in enhancing the school's overall performance. By fostering strong connections with both staff and students, I bring a unique perspective to the table that enables me to contribute positively to upcoming decisions and initiatives. Outside of my professional life, I'm an avid guitar player in a signed metal band. I also undertake photography and filmography as hobbies and make it a priority to travel as much as possible.	I have over 10 years' experience of governance at both primary and secondary schools. My professional background includes both marketing and education and I hold graduate and post graduate degrees in languages, communication, and business. My marketing career of more than 20 years has been in international business within the private and the education sectors. This encompassed a multinational company as well as a Cambridge based technology start up company. As a firm believer in the benefits of education for all, I retrained to become a qualified teacher, specialising in business and modern foreign languages. In my personal time, I enjoy travelling, learning new languages, and reading as well as a range of sporting activities, such as skiing, scrambling, and running.	I'm proud to be a school governor, bringing my experience in Advancement, Relationship Management and Philanthropy to the table. I'm skilled at building strong connections with people for a purpose, which I believe will benefit our school community. In my role as Advancement specialist, I've learned how collaboration can drive positive change, the importance of giving back and how education can transform lives. My career began as a Stage Manager in the theatre and this ignited my love for the arts. As a school governor, my goal is to create an inclusive and supportive space for all and encourage creative growth. I aim to enhance the learning experience and help every student thrive. Together, we can continue to make our school an inspiring place where students can truly shine.
Committees: Gilberd LGB 12.7.23	Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 9.10.22	Committees and appointed date Gilberd LGB 18.10.22	Committees: Gilberd LGB 17.10.23
Appointed By: Parents	Appointed By: Staff	Appointed By: Staff	Appointed By: Trust appointed Governor
Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years

Fatima Dhorowa	Carol Evans	James Mitchell	
I am a solicitor with nearly a decade of experience in criminal law — first as a defence lawyer and now as a prosecutor. I have a strong sense of fairness and justice that guides both my professional and personal life. I was fortunate to have a positive school experience, but my work has shown me that this isn't the case for every child. A well-rounded education can shape a young person's path and open up opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I believe that deeply and want to help ensure every child has the chance to thrive. My favourite classes fostered a deep love for reading which grew my imagination and curiosity. As a result, I love travelling and exploring the cultures and places that I read about.	I have taught English and PHSE in both the state and independent sector. In the latter I was housemistress of a mixed year 13 boarding house, caring for about one hundred girls and boys. After retiring back to Colchester, I worked part-time, inspecting how boarding schools look after their students. I enjoy spending time with young and I see this as very important in my role as a governor. I believe that if children are well-cared for, happy and feel valued, they will be able to fulfil their potential. In my spare time, I volunteer at Firstsite, mainly in the cinema, sometimes in the gallery. I like going to the theatre and am a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. as well as the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. I enjoy reading and watching television. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my family, my children and grandchildren.	I have worked at The Gilberd School since September 2007 having been a former student myself between the ages of 11 and 16. I was appointed Deputy Head Teacher in 2015 and then moved to the position of Head of School in 2021.	
Committees Gilberd LGB	Committee Gilberd LGB		
Appointed By: LGB Co-opted Governor 26.03.25	Appointed By: LGB Co-opted Governor 26.03.25		
Term of Office: 4 years	Term of Office: 4 years		



Alpha Trust – Gilberd Former LGB (resigning in the last 12 months)

Name	Appointed Date	Appointed By	Term of Office	Resignation Date
Sarah Murphy	12.7.23	Alpha Trust	4 years	1.7.25
Shiela Winwright	27.11.19	LGB	4 years	13.1.25
Adele Odili	12.7.23	LGB	4 years	18.11.24
Andrew Emrich	14.3.23	LGB	4 years	1.10.24