Declarations of Business Interests: Executive and Central Team Leadership

Last Updated 10/11/2026

Name	Position*	Relevant Business, Directorships and/or Partnerships. Trusteeships/Governorships & Other Educational Establishments/Membership of Professional Bodies & Charities/ Personal Relationship/Interests of Close Relatives
Executive Leadership		
Guy Shears	Trust Executive Principal (CEO)	DfE RISE Support (September 2025–ongoing) Ofsted Inspector (September 2021–ongoing) Ambition NPQEL coach and facilitator (August 2021–ongoing) South Birmingham SCITT professionalism training delivery (2020–ongoing) Smith's Wood Academy (Fairfax MAT), RISE support (September 2025–ongoing) Teaching School Hub Board memberships: Prince Henry's High School, Worcestershire, and Haybridge High School/Haybridge Teaching School Hub (2021–ongoing). Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club, Birmingham, committee member (2000–ongoing) Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club Limited, director (2004–ongoing) Warwickshire Imps Cricket Club, committee member (2023–ongoing) Aequalis Education Trust, member (September 2025–ongoing). Birmingham MAT CEO Partnership Group, member (September 2022–ongoing) Worcestershire System Partnership Group, chair (2024–ongoing) DfE West Midlands RISE Communities of Practice: Defining and Delivering Culture Across Multiple Sites, chair (August 2024–ongoing) University of Birmingham, ITT Partnership and Teacher Education Advisory Group (start date not specified; ongoing) Royal Society of Arts (RSA), Fellow (2012–ongoing; RSA founded CRST) University of Worcester, Honorary Fellow (March 2025–ongoing) Flourishing Trusts Network, member (2024–ongoing).
Caroline Symonds	Chief Finance Officer	Coleshill Parish Trust Fund — trustee, 2017–present. Coleshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation — trustee, 2018–present. Education Foundation of Simon Lord Digby and Others — trustee, 2025–2029.

		North Warwickshire Borough Council — elected councillor, 2017–present; declared no link to CRST, being in Warwickshire rather than Birmingham. Coleshill Town Council — 2017–present. Central Midlands Audit Partnership — board member, 2025–present. CIMA — professional membership, ongoing.
Ian Mellor	Director of Education	None
Sam McMonagle	Executive Trust School Improvement Lead	None
Stephen Brownlow	Senior Advisor to Operations	Spouse is a director of Brownlow Farnell Tutoring LLP, which provides services to some Trust schools
Angela Crawley	Executive Principal	Family member is a Drawing and Talking Therapist who works/has worked across CRST schools
Ed Cooper	Head of Operations	None
Senior Leadership		
Sarah Callanan	Principal Arrow Valley First School	Governor, Holyhead School – April 2024
Sarah Callanan	Principal St Stephens CofE Primary School	Governor, Holyhead School – April 2024
Zoe Gilmour	Principal Abbeywood First School	None
Ben Irving	Principal Oldbury Park Primary School	None
Laura Jarvis	Principal Church Hill Middle School	None
Sarah Allen	Principal Oak Hill Primary School	None
Dave Knox	Principal Holyhead School	Partner works at Holyhead School
Lorna Weatherby	Principal Lickhill Primary School	None
Matt Rash	Principal, Arrow Vale High School	None
Ange Saul	Principal Ipsley CE Middle School	Trustee, Fioretti Trust - February 2025.
Tom Preston	Principal, Waseley Hills High School	Trustee, Alcester Grammar School. – May 2026
Lorna Weatherby	Principal Sutton Park Primary School	None
Central Team Leaders		
Dani Hale	Head of HR Operations	None
Ash Burbridge	Head of IT and Data	None
Rita Patel	Head of Governance	Trustee, Titan Education Trust: March 2026
Andy Bowen	Head of Data/ Vice Principal at Holyhead School	None