

Carolyn Dunn
(CEO)



Position: Trustee

Term of Office Start Date: 01/09/2017

Appointed by: Trustee Appointed

Term of Office End Date:

Personal details:

I have a real passion for special education and love working for the Trust. It is exciting and rewarding to work with such a skilled Board and Executive team. Having been involved with the Trust since its inception, I am very proud to be leading the Trust forward in its improvement and development.

I completed an honours degree in special education in 1990 and since then have worked mainly in special education. In 1997 I completed my Masters' Degree in special education and became Deputy Head of a large special school in Darlington. I was fortunate to be involved with the ground breaking collaboration between a secondary school, primary school and special school sharing one building. This became The Education Village and I became Vice Principal across Key stage 2 and 3 within the mainstream schools within The Village. During this time, I was the national lead for special school curriculum with the Schools Teachers and Student Network (SSAT).

I took up my first Headship at Barbara Priestman School in Sunderland in 2008 and in 2012 I worked with other Sunderland special school Head Teachers to form The Ascent Academies' Trust. In 2014 I was asked to be consultant Head Teacher at a Durham special school that was in special measures. This came out of special measures within 4 terms and became part of Ascent Academies' Trust. I then became Executive Head Teacher at Portland and Barbara Priestman Academy before being asked to take up the role of CEO within the Trust.

Key skill area:

Special Education, Leadership and Management.

Trustee responsibilities:

CEO, Member of the Standards Committee, Member of the Finance, Risk & Resources Committee, Member of the Pay & Review Committee.