



**Rethinking
Curriculum**

Expert Advisory Panel

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF PANEL



Gender representation of group

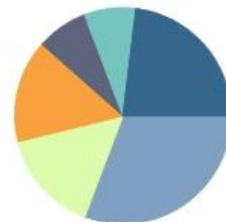


Male Female

School type representation

Showing the sector coverage of Expert Advisory Panel

- School based
- Trust / LA level
- Church
- Independent
- Early Years
- Other



Claire Martin- O'Donoghue

I am a Senior Education Leader within the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust, a rapidly growing trust on the south coast, stretching from Hastings to the Isle of Wight. I took on this role in September of this academic year. Previously, headteacher of a large three form entry primary school. I joined that school as an NQT and stayed for 25 years!

I have the benefit of extensive senior management experience in schools through my work nationally as an NLE. I also have the privilege of visiting other schools as an Ofsted inspector.

Whilst headteacher my previous school gained Teaching School status, an outstanding Ofsted judgement in the new framework, we also became a Behaviour Hub supporting schools in challenging circumstances and opened a nursery on site. I have always enjoyed supporting others, embracing change and innovation which is what drew me to this project. I also currently lead on curriculum and assessment across the trust whilst supporting 8 schools locally.



Naheeda Maharasingam

I am the Headteacher of Rathfern Primary School: a diverse and dynamic inner London primary school committed to promoting social and environmental justice. I am passionate about values which enrich her vision and permeate my school culture, pedagogy and curriculum, with a focus on disrupting the trajectory for disadvantaged pupils.

Rathfern School is a Lewisham Research Hub for the Chartered College of Teaching and leads the Humanities Hub for Lewisham.

I am a Local Leader of Education (LLE), an Evidence Lead in Education (ELE) and a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching. I am the steering group lead for Tackling Race Inequality In Education and work across all Lewisham schools.



Ellen Parker

My name is Ellen, and I am thrilled to be a part of this group working on the Rethinking Curriculum project. As a current Assistant Head leading on curriculum development, I have been fortunate to drive improvements in curriculum and teaching and learning across a range of year groups, from EYFS to Year 6. My experiences have primarily been based in schools catering for children with challenging starting points, including a high proportion of EAL and SEND learners.

What fuels my passion is the challenge of creating ambitious and bespoke curriculums that captivate young minds. I strongly believe that we can deliver the curriculum creatively, enabling children to contextualise their learning and make meaningful connections to the world around them. By developing engaging and immersive curriculums, we can provide opportunities for every child to flourish and excel, regardless of their starting point.

I am excited to collaborate with this group and combine our collective expertise to shape a project that will support schools and fellow practitioners on their curriculum journeys, within the primary sector.



Anit Mahay

I am a Senior Consultant with responsibility for supporting teaching & learning and enhancing wider curriculum provision. I am fundamentally passionate about the anatomy of learning and using education as a vehicle to allow any young mind to thrive intellectually, socially and emotionally. Additionally, I advocate for connection, curiosity and independence in any curriculum design.

Since joining a multi-academy trust, I have undertaken a myriad of roles from English Lead, Phase Lead, Pupil Premium Lead, Lead Teacher/Advisory Teacher working with schools across the academy trust, Early Career Teacher mentor, Remote Learning Lead and becoming a Special Leader of Education. Furthermore, to strengthen my leadership skills, I completed my NPQSL. Throughout this experience, I developed a range of knowledge and skills to support pupil progress and staff development. Utilising this experience, I now support schools within the trust ensuring their wider curriculum provision is ambitious for all, evidence informed and places cultural capital at the heart of their curriculum building blocks.

I also support teaching and learning by coaching and mentoring teachers. This is done by providing CPD training, masterclasses, audits, subject reviews, networking opportunities and deep dive preparation. The impact of this allows teachers and school leaders to monitor standards and drive excellence within their respective settings.



Jo Newman

I was the Head of the Junior School (4 to 11 years old) at North London Collegiate School from 2003 to 2019. Prior to that, I was Head of the Junior School at Channing School in Highgate, having previously been Deputy Head, First School and a class teacher at NLCS Junior School for a number of years.

I worked on the development of NLCS's international schools in Jeju (South Korea), Dubai and Singapore and have undertaken regular inspection and monitoring visits to them. I began her teaching career at Haberdashers' Boys Preparatory School.

I currently advise a number of schools on improving the quality of teaching and learning and am a member of Patron Capital's Educational Advisory Group. I have worked with the PTI since 2006 and am currently Co-Designer and Co-Director of its Primary Leadership Residential Course where there is a focus on curriculum leadership.

I am a Geography subject specialist and have a BEd from Cambridge University.

I enjoy a wide range of interests including gardening, pottery and the arts, especially the theatre.



Kath Bransby

A teacher and senior leader in Education since 2003, I now work as National Education Coordinator for the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship, the associative body for Waldorf Education in the UK. My role involves developing the quality of education across all member schools, and over the last three years has included the design and development of an online planning tool that supports teachers as designers of the curriculum.

I also lecture in Early Childhood Education at Sheffield Hallam University, where my research includes early reading and curriculum development.



Lekha Sharma

I am the School Improvement Lead for Curriculum and Assessment at the Avanti Schools Trust. I am an experienced Senior Leader and have led on Curriculum Design and Development and more broadly Quality of Education in a range of contexts.

I am the author of 'Curriculum to Classroom' (John Catt 2020) and 'Building Culture' (John Catt 2023) and am a passionate advocate of making evidence-informed practice accessible to teachers and leaders, in service of great outcomes and educational experiences for pupils.

I have previously worked for the Teacher Development Trust in authoring the National Professional Qualifications and I work closely with a number of sector- wide organisations including the Confederation of School Trusts and the Chartered College of Teaching, with a focus on both leadership and curriculum development both at trust and school level.



Emma Turner

I have served in primary education for 25 years. I have been a class teacher, assistant headteacher, deputy headteacher and one half of one of the UK's first and youngest all female co-headships. I have been a consultant for the national strategies, trust research and CPD lead across 15 Leicestershire primary schools, and currently work part time as deputy director of education for a West Midlands trust across 18 primary schools.

I have written five books on education – Simplicitus – The Interconnected primary curriculum and effective subject leadership; Altius – Leading the interconnected primary curriculum; Be More Toddler; Let's Talk about Flex; and The Extended Mind In Action. I Co host the John Catt Podcast 'Mind the Gap' with Tom Sherrington and regularly speak at national and international events about leadership and curriculum design.

I provide school improvement support locally, nationally and internationally, specialising in curriculum design and cognitive science, and regularly guest lecture within ITE and ECF.

I am also a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and Advisory board member for the global equality collective.

@Emma_Turner75



Hydeh Fayaz

I am thrilled to be a member of the advisory board for Rethinking Curriculum and am currently Assistant Head at St Matthews Research School in Birmingham. Here, I lead on Curriculum. Along with subject leaders, curating the curriculum for our children here in Nechells is something I am extremely passionate about. I have been influenced by so many thinkers in our wonderful line of work and am especially interested in how Oracy can be an underpinning pedagogy to articulate the words our children are thinking.

As an Evidence Lead in Education with the EEF, I have worked with Oracy Cambridge to devise a 2 year modular programme to explore the research behind Dialogic Talk and how we can move Evidence into Action for our youngest learners.

I am an ELE for the research school and Programme Lead for Literacy for the Research Schools Network (EEF).



Jenna Crittenden

I am the project lead for Rethinking Curriculum and am delighted to chair this expert advisory board on behalf of the Chartered College of Teaching.

Prior to joining the Chartered College of Teaching I have been a Headteacher, curriculum design lead and am an experienced primary and early years teacher in the UK and British Forces schools. I was part of the inaugural team who opened a three form entry free school and also planned and developed a new school build. I have completed my NPQH and MaEd, served as a school governor and chair and am now a trustee for several educational charities.

I am very interested in sustainable curriculum development and implementation, mental health and inclusion, and staff development and retention. I am a keen advocate for flexible working, supporting teachers to stay in the profession when parents and enhancing the voice of female leadership within schools and the charity sector.



Alexander Kossykh

I am an assistant head teacher in a small primary school in Central London and support the Headteacher with curriculum design and development. I am also a class teacher and a subject leader for Computing and PSHE (along with RSE).

I have worked in some of the most deprived areas of London and believe that education should be about social mobility. I am interested in what knowledge would our children need when they become young adults and how would they use the knowledge that we give them in order to be successful.

I am passionate about children's creative abilities and believe that schools should have a focus on development of creativity within pupils as a behaviour, mindset and an interdisciplinary skill and not be confined just to the arts curriculum.

Rachel Higginson

I am passionate about facilitating professional conversations and supporting education evolution. I am a creative consultant, keynote speaker and have been in education for 25 years.

I am the Primary Adviser for Uffculme Academy Trust, a collaborator for Myatt & Co, have written the DFE approved curriculum for a South West free school, and am the Education Consultant for the children's publisher, Redan.

I designed the 'Finding my Voice' project based in Devon, soon to roll out as a national whole-school approach. This supports young people to physically and metaphorically 'find their voice'.

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Emmanuel Awayelu

I am a former Assistant Head Teacher & SENCO in the UK and am currently working as an Inclusion Specialist and Consultant in the Middle East.

I am also the director of The Reach Out Project, a mentoring program that supports young boys who are disengaged from school.

I am an avid writer and public speaker who uses my experience in both special schools and mainstream education to support schools and educators on inclusive practice.

