



Meet the School Improvement Team

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Introduction



Welcome to our "Meet the School Improvement Team" document! As the Director of Schools and Employability, I am delighted to introduce you to the dedicated and passionate individuals who make up our School Improvement team. Each member brings a wealth of experience, expertise, and enthusiasm to their role, working tirelessly to enhance the quality of education for all our children and young people.

Our team is committed to fostering a supportive and dynamic educational environment where every child can thrive. We believe that collaboration and continuous development are key to achieving excellence in education. By working closely with teachers, school leaders, parents, and the wider community, we strive to create a nurturing and inspiring atmosphere for learning.

In this document, you will get to know the talented professionals who are at the heart of our school improvement efforts. From their backgrounds and areas of expertise to their personal passions and motivations, we hope you will gain a deeper understanding of the people who are dedicated to making a positive impact on our schools.

Moving forward, we are in the process of developing a collaborative strategy for the city with the DfE, Teaching and Research Schools, West Midlands Education Exchange (and MATs) and BEP so we have the necessary coherence to support schools effectively in the city.

I am incredibly proud of our team and the work they do every day to support our schools and students. Their dedication and passion for education are truly inspiring, and I am confident that together, we will continue to drive positive change and help our children and young people achieve their full potential. In addition, we are also growing in number with some further appointments being made and offering some opportunities for Headteachers to have part-time secondments to enable further school to support.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our team. We look forward to working with you and continuing our journey towards educational excellence.

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School Improvement Team

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For any queries or further information, the School Improvement team can also be reached through a dedicated mailbox: SchoolImprovement@birmingham.gov.uk

Primary School Advisors

Tricia Bunn



With over 30 years of experience in primary education, Tricia is a passionate leader specialising in school improvement, leadership development, and behaviour management. Recently, she served as a Senior Education Advisor for the Department for Education's Behaviour Hubs Programme, helping school leaders create calm, supportive cultures.

Tricia has been headteacher of three schools and held senior leadership roles in two others. In her most recent headship, she transformed an Ofsted-rated "Inadequate" school, stabilising it, overhauling the teaching team, and restoring community trust. The school made rapid progress under her leadership, earning HMI recognition for high expectations and strategic improvements.

Tricia also worked as a School Improvement Advisor for primary schools across the region, building strong relationships with schools in Birmingham. Earlier, she was a Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at the University of Wolverhampton, specialising in teacher training, curriculum development, and research, and earning fellowship of the HEA.

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David Camps

David has extensive experience in various primary schools across the city, with expertise in maths, teaching quality, staff wellbeing, and school mental health strategies, including Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. He holds the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH).

As a senior leader, David improved two Ofsted-rated Inadequate schools to Outstanding or Good with Outstanding features. Most recently, he was headteacher of a primary school shortlisted for three TES awards.

David was Chair of the Aston and Nechells Consortia, working with many city leaders. He is an NPQ assessor for Ambition Institute, Safeguarding Governor for a large secondary school, and has mentored new headteachers. Since May 2023, David has been part of the council's School Improvement working group and is excited to join as a School Improvement Advisor.

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Susan Samra



From 2007 to 2022, Susan served as Deputy and Headteacher, transforming an urban primary school from Special Measures to Outstanding, with high outcomes and an 'Outstanding' SIAMS judgement. She supported numerous schools as a system leader and became a Specialist Leader in Education for the RSA Academies' Teaching School Alliance, focusing on Narrowing the Gap, CPD, and Pupil Voice.

Susan also served as a School Improvement Partner for the Coventry Diocesan Multi Academy Trust, successfully supporting leaders through nine Ofsted inspections. Currently, she provides school improvement consultancy, peer reviews, and coaching for new headteachers nationwide. Susan is a visiting fellow for the ECF programme at Ambition Institute and an Apprenticeship Performance Coach for NPQ learners at Best Practice Network. She recently earned a Level 7 Advanced Certificate in Executive Coaching from the University of the West of England.

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Angeline Tyler

Ange Tyler is passionate about using education to effect positive change for children and young people, especially those from disadvantaged communities. She has successfully led and improved schools and systems, including recovering a Secondary school improvement service in a London Borough for London Challenge and serving as an Executive Head at both Secondary and Primary levels.

Ange has a track record of turning around long-term failing schools and helping others achieve Outstanding status for the first time. Over the past decade, she co-founded an Academy Trust to demonstrate how a broader understanding of school purpose can engage vulnerable and disadvantaged students, leading to above-average academic success.

As an independent consultant, Ange has delivered strategic projects, including restructuring a large education directorate. She recently earned a PhD from Manchester Metropolitan University, focusing on achieving impactful school improvement through democratic leadership and team approaches. Ange is currently writing a book on school improvement based on her research and extensive experience.

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Secondary School Advisors

Manjit Harvey-More



Manjit began his teaching career in 2008, driven by a passion for helping young people unlock their potential. He has held various senior leadership roles, including Assistant Headteacher, shaping positive school culture, and Deputy Headteacher, leading Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, and Assessment development. As Headteacher in London and Birmingham, his dedication led to Key Stage 4 results placing his first school in the top 10% nationally.

With extensive leadership experience, Manjit has been involved in five Ofsted inspections, securing "Good" or "Outstanding" judgments each time. Recognised by Future Leaders and Teach First as 'Leader of the Year' and 'Teacher of the Year,' he believes in a cohesive education system for achieving the best outcomes for every child. As a School Improvement Advisor, he aims to unite different aspects of the educational system and drive positive change.

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Damien Kearns

Damien has worked in both the private and public sectors, with his last two positions at Nishkam Schools Trust and Academies Enterprise Trust.

As Principal of Nishkam High School, Birmingham (2014-2022), the school achieved top decile performance nationally for GCSE attainment and top 3% for progress from 2017 to 2022. Pupil Premium students (about 33% of cohorts) consistently outperformed their non-disadvantaged peers nationally in Attainment 8 scores. From June 2020 to December 2022, Damien served as DCEO of Nishkam Schools Trust, focusing on developing the secondary phase at Nishkam School West London. Both schools are currently rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.



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John-Paul Mcinerney (including Alternative Provision)



Since qualifying as a Computing teacher in 2006, John-Paul has dedicated himself to helping young people reach their potential, working across three secondary schools in neighbouring Local Authorities. Inspired by working with exceptional leaders, he has spent over ten years in senior leadership roles and earned his NPQH in 2021. He has successfully supported two schools requiring improvement to achieve a 'Good' rating.

In his recent role with the Department for Education, John-Paul was one of four School Partnership Leads on the national Behaviour Hubs Programme, supporting 662 schools. Over 75% of these schools improved their behaviour rating in subsequent Ofsted inspections. As a

School Improvement Consultant, he has provided expert advice on behaviour, safeguarding, and personal development, and created bespoke CPD for leaders both in the UK and internationally. He has also collaborated with leading school improvement partners and offered curriculum and assessment advice.

Currently, John-Paul partners with multiple Teaching School Hubs to deliver NPQs and assesses for Ambition Institute. With an ILM Level 7 coaching award for Executive Leadership, he empowers school leaders to drive positive change. He also serves as a Governor at a local primary school.

Passionate about school improvement and enhancing young people's life chances, John-Paul is excited to work alongside a team of advisers to support high standards for the young people in his city.

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Special School Advisor

Kara Robinson

Kara trained as a Primary teacher in Birmingham before starting her career in mainstream education in Nottinghamshire. She returned to the West Midlands

and has spent most of her career in special schools. Since becoming a Deputy Headteacher in 2011, Kara has held roles as Head of School, Deputy Headteacher, and Headteacher in three special schools in Birmingham, Solihull, and Warwickshire. She is proud of her involvement in successful Ofsted inspections, notably at Beaufort School (Outstanding 2012 and 2016) and Hazel Oak School (Outstanding 2019). Kara maintains close ties with mainstream schools and continually learns from training and coaching SENCOs.



As a part-time School Improvement Advisor for Birmingham City Council, Kara also engages in freelance work, supporting schools with SEND consultancy, bespoke training, and curriculum development. She facilitates the Early Career Framework and National Professional Qualifications through Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub and serves as an Associate Facilitator and Leadership Performance Coach for Best Practice Network.

With experience teaching pupils from EYFS to Post 16, Kara is passionate about inclusive, child-centred practice. Her Master of Education research focused on augmentative and alternative communication systems for young people with complex learning difficulties, Autism, and Visual Impairment. Her personal experiences have shaped her commitment to raising awareness of the impact of Epilepsy, trauma, and Pathological Demand Avoidance on children's lives.

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