



## **Appendix 9**

### **Our Executive Team**

#### **Matthew Crawford**

Matthew has six and a half years of headship experience and several years of working as a leader in schools. He is currently Executive Head of Embark Federation in Derbyshire which consists of Richardson Endowed Primary in Smalley and Kilburn Junior School. The Federation launched in January 2017 and he has been headteacher at Richardson Endowed since September 2011.

Matthew has been designated a National Leader of Education in February 2017 as a result of his work as a system leader and Richardson Endowed Primary became a National Support School.

Matthew has worked as an Associate School Improvement Adviser for Derbyshire County Council over the last three and a half years supporting nine schools and their leaders in a wide variety of school improvement activities. All nine schools now have good or better Ofsted judgements.

Matthew has also recently enjoyed working with a 'coasting' school in his role as NLE which was assigned by the RSC team.

He believes that schools are 'stronger together' and enjoys sharing practice whilst also learning from others and helping to improve the federation. He also believes that schools should be at the heart of their communities and give their children the best possible education.

Both schools in the federation have an exciting curriculum which is accompanied by a rich diet of wider opportunities in Music, Sport, Science and the Arts. The federation has excellent leadership in both schools and very good capacity to support others.

Prior to his work in Smalley, Matthew taught for nine years in two Derby City schools and then for four years as a Deputy Head in Nottinghamshire.

## **Philip Searson**

Philip has ten years of headship experience from posts at two different schools and several years of working as a leader in schools prior to that. He is currently Headteacher of Longford Church of England Primary School in Derbyshire where he has been for seven years.

Philip was designated a National Leader of Education in June 2017 as a result of his work as a system leader and Longford Church of England Primary became a National Support School. Prior to this Philip has also supported one school in his role as LLE which was assigned through the Derbyshire Teaching School Alliance. The brief for this work was to support the school to gain a 'good' Ofsted grading which was achieved in July 2016 and to support the newly appointed leadership of the school in continuing to raise standards.

Philip has worked as an Associate School Improvement Adviser for Derbyshire County Council over the last three and a half years supporting a total of eleven schools and their leaders in a wide variety of school improvement activities. All eleven schools now have good or better Ofsted judgements.

To enable this role to be undertaken Philip has reduced his teaching commitment at Longford from 2.5 days per week to 0.5 days and coached a middle leader who became Deputy Headteacher in 2016, therefore strengthening the leadership structure within school.

This leadership is now strong and will enable Philip to be out of school and to facilitate school improvement work in the future. As a result of this leadership development within school Philip has been asked to support the LA 'Aspirant Head teacher's programme' by hosting visits from delegates.

He believes in schools working together to share practice and learn together and has made numerous links with other schools to improve practice through collaborative work to develop assessment, the quality of teaching and learning etc. Longford Church of England Primary School also hosts an annual 'Teaching and Learning Conference' open to any school. Over the last 9 years a range of highly regarded educational speakers have been invited to lead this day.

Longford Church of England Primary School has an exciting curriculum focussing on achieving high quality outcomes and includes a good balance of opportunities in both visual and performing arts, sports, personal development as well as the core and foundation curriculum subjects. Aspects of this provision have been recognised and the school has been asked to share practice through leading training. Most recently, following achieving Outstanding Church School status in January 2017, Philip has been asked to contribute to Diocese Board of Education training on 'child led collective worship'.

Prior to his two Headships in Derbyshire, Philip taught for eighteen years in two Nottinghamshire schools and one Nottingham City school. This experience included the roles of SENDCO in a city primary school, Advanced Skills teacher for 4 years and Deputy Headship.

## **Jonathan Lynch**

Jonathan has 5 years of headship experience and several years as a senior leader before that. He is currently the head teacher at Heath Primary School and was previously Headteacher at Westhouses Primary.

He has helped to support other schools as a senior leader both in his role as a Primary Maths Specialist and as a Lead Literacy and Maths teacher for Derbyshire.

Jonathan believes strongly in developing the team in school to improve opportunities for pupils and staff within the school. Staff at Heath Primary School work hard to contribute to their own development and enthusiastically share good practice both with each other and with other local schools. Staff regularly go 'above and beyond' to support children and help to move the school forward.

Heath Primary has a significant role within the community and has over the past few years developed a strong pastoral and nurture provision; enabling the school to support families as well as the children who attend the school. The ethos of the school builds on this as well as raising aspirations for children, through a broad and balanced curriculum that celebrates all the achievements of our pupils from kart racing out of school to dance festivals and our annual community art exhibition.

Prior to the above he worked both in the centre and north of the peak district for other Derbyshire schools, working in a range of schools both in size and demographic.

## **Kate Mason**

Kate has over 20 years of leadership experience in education. She is currently Headteacher at Richardson Endowed Primary school after previously fulfilling the roles of Assistant and Deputy Head there.

Richardson Endowed Primary is a National Support School and visitors are welcomed not only from our county but also from across the whole country.

Kate has worked extensively with over 20 NQT's in both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire as a Mentor and is passionate about developing highly skilled and motivated teachers. She also works in partnership with the University of Derby and is regularly on the interview panel looking for students for the BEd and PGCE programmes.

Kate is a musician and has directed many school productions at a primary school level giving the children a professional experience of performing with sound, lighting and a live band.

Kate has a passion for education and believes that confident children make the best learners and therefore strives to develop the whole child through the Embark Core Beliefs of Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success.

### **Lynn Pilling**

Lynn is the Headteacher at Howitt Primary Community School. She took up a post as class teacher at William Howitt Junior Community School after teaching in an inner city school in Derby.

She soon took on many different responsibilities through the school from English subject leader to health and safety manager. She became assistant Headteacher at the junior school and acted as Headteacher on the retirement of the school's Headteacher.

After William Howitt Junior Community School amalgamated with Mary Howitt Infant Community School in September 2007, Lynn became the Deputy Headteacher of Howitt Primary Community School supporting the Headteacher in drawing the stakeholders together during a large change for the school community. This was a non-class based role which Lynn enjoyed, as she was able to develop her leadership skills further in a large primary setting as well as support both children and teachers to achieve the children's potential.

Lynn was seconded to a junior school to support the Headteacher in developing a positive ethos and driving standards forward.

In 2015, Lynn took the school through a very challenging time as Lynn became Acting Headteacher, after the sudden death of the Headteacher. She was appointed as the Headteacher in January 2016. The role has brought new challenges and experiences, which Lynn has relished and overcome with the clear and united support of the staff. All teachers, as well as teaching and learning assistants are committed and work so hard to achieve the best possible experiences and learning for the children in a safe and nurturing environment.

Lynn has been at Howitt Primary in a variety of capacities for over twenty-two years and is keen to continue to move forward and provide the very best learning environment for every child. She is very dedicated and passionate about developing the whole child and providing the best experiences and opportunities to achieve every child's full potential so that they are ready for life after school.

### **Liz Peach**

Liz has been the Head Teacher of Horsley Woodhouse Primary School for the past 6 years and has led the school through 2 highly successful Ofsted Inspections. Liz has 12 years experience of being a senior leader prior to securing her first headship. Liz has also been an Advance Skills Teacher in English and has supported many different schools in Derbyshire as part of her role.

Prior to becoming Head Teacher at Horsley Woodhouse, Liz was seconded by the Local Authority to be an Acting Head Teacher for 2 terms where she continued to develop her leadership skills. She was then seconded again to a struggling school

for a year to support the Head Teacher with leading teaching and learning. Her Local Authority Senior Advisor at the time reported that she had done an extremely good job in unifying the whole educational team and helping to move the school forwards.

Liz is a Head Teacher who is passionate about teaching and learning and spends much of her leadership time in classrooms coaching and mentoring teachers and teaching assistants and supporting children with their learning. Liz strongly believes in educating the whole child with a rich and varied curriculum and has a firm belief that together we make a difference.

Liz and her team are very excited about maths mastery teaching and the school have received high praise from the Local Authority. Many colleagues from other schools have visited Horsley Woodhouse to observe the delivery of teaching and learning in maths. Recently Liz and her maths subject leader were asked to present at the Maths Conference where they received glowing feedback about their maths mastery journey.

Liz has always been passionately committed to pupil inclusion and development and to providing equal opportunities for the progress of all - including pupils with SEND. She was a SENCO for 6 years as part of her management role as Deputy Head Teacher.

### **Robert Hull**

Robert is headteacher of Kilburn Junior School where he has worked for 22 years, as class teacher, deputy headteacher, and for the last 18 months as headteacher.

Robert led the school into its federation with Smalley Richardson in January 2017 and was a key member of the team who helped forge and shape the Embark Federation, its vision, core values and underlying principles.

Robert strongly believes in the need for schools to provide pupils with an enriching, stimulating experience, with a breadth of opportunity that will excite, motivate and prepare them for the future. He is committed to developing a rich and engaging curriculum whilst also providing opportunities beyond the classroom and school day that all pupils can access.

Robert has a wealth of experience as a teacher and senior leader and is passionate about teamwork, challenging and supporting staff to bring out the best in them and their pupils. He promotes collaboration within school and between the school and wider community but also considers the well-being of staff as being of paramount importance.

A keen sportsman, Robert gives sport and physical activity a high priority at school and has developed an ethos and culture that promotes this. He is also keen to promote the use of the outdoors, recognising it as an important tool in providing meaningful experiences for pupils beyond the classroom.

Overall Robert strives to provide a happy environment for the school community where stakeholders want to be. He is well-respected within the school community and endeavours to lead his team by example.

### **Jane Evans**

On returning to teaching after starting her family Jane worked in several local infants, junior and primary schools on short and long term supply, before taking up a permanent post at Aldercar Infant and Nursery School as a KS1 then Reception class teacher. During the 90s the school received Beacon Status (only infant school in Derbyshire at the time to achieve this). This allowed Jane to develop lead roles working with other local schools on such matters as subject co-ordinator, SEND and so forth. Along with this she was involved with visitors from further afield coming to school to observe good and better practise and taking a lead in Teaching Assistant Inset Day training and workshops. By now Jane was also the school SEND co-ordinator, working alongside other agency professionals and continually developing her knowledge and skills in this field.

In 2003 Jane became an Advanced Skills Teacher allowing her to work with NQTs both in school and at other establishments, support struggling teachers and continue her work with focus groups such as cluster SEND co-ordinators.

A new Head teacher arriving at the school at the beginning of 2004 saw Jane take up the role of assistant head and when the head became a School Improvement Advisor Jane had the opportunity to further her leadership role 2/3 days a week up until the head teacher left last July.

Jane is a trained Reading Recovery teacher and a Level 3 trained Forest School leader.

2013 saw the school achieve Outstanding in all areas during their most recent Ofsted. Again Jane, along with the rest of the staff, shared their expertise with visitors to the school.

The school has a staff made up of long serving teachers and teaching assistants. Over many years they have all worked together with the same aim in mind – the children. They realise that to get the best from their children it is vital to work in partnership with parents. The school has an open door policy and parents now feel confident enough to approach staff with questions, worries and concerns. Workshops for parents regarding reading, maths, phonics and spellings are run on a regular basis by Jane.

The school runs a toddler group each week, which enables parents and children alike to become part of the school from an early age and just over a year ago the school opened its nursery doors to a two year olds area. Already the school has seen the benefit of this as children move more confidently into the 3-4 year olds area.

Being an Enhanced Resource for deaf children brings a very inclusive element to the school.

All children are included in every aspect of the school life and the need for CTs, TAs, & MDS to be continually trained to ensure this happens has resulted in an extremely experienced and knowledgeable staff.

Always looking for ways to improve the school and take it further on its journey, Jane, the staff and governors believe that the way forward to continue sharing and receiving good practise is joining with other like-minded schools. The Embark Federation/Academy has the same ethos, is child-centred and believes that each school is at the heart of their community. Working together we can become a Multi Academy Trust that Stands Out.