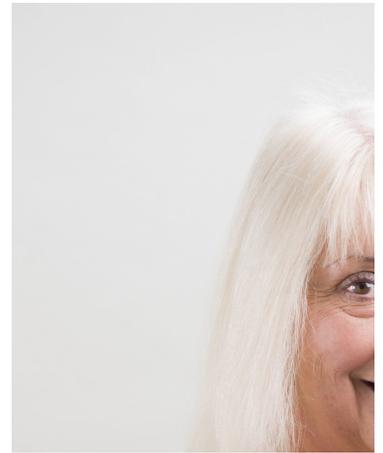Board of Directors; Chair

Catherine Marie Garside CBE, NLE, DLE, FRSA

Marie's lifelong career has been spent promoting excellence in comprehensive education, initially as a geography teacher, Head of Department and Deputy, later as Head and Executive Head of an "Outstanding School".

During the Greater Manchester Challenge Marie was appointed Operational Programme Lead for all ten "Families of Schools" within Greater Manchester, coordinating a diverse range of collaborative learning activities to raise pupil achievement.

As part of this initiative, Marie became both a National Leader of Education and a Diocesan Leader of Education supporting a number of schools and leaders in challenging circumstances. Her school was awarded "National Teaching School" status which allowed the institution to train new teachers, appoint and deploy "Specialist Leaders of Education", provide training and develop future leaders.

The school community was awarded a great many accolades but Marie was particularly proud of being acknowledged nationally and internationally for its work as a National School of Creativity. She was asked to speak alongside the Chancellor to the creative industries at no11 Downing Street.

Professor Bill Lucas from Winchester University asked the school to become the northern hub of its "Expansive Education" network, recognising the strength of research and development carried out by its teaching school members.

Marie believes it is a great privilege to work with young people, supporting them in discovering their talents and widening their aspirations, through the provision of a high quality and engaging curriculum. This care and concern was recognised in its award "Flagship School for Inclusion" acknowledging the range of interventions and support offered to all pupils.

Since retiring Marie works as a consultant, is a Chair of Governors at a primary school, Vice Chair at a Creative Studio School, and is a Trustee of the David Nieper Academy and St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust.