

Judicium Education Case Study

Furness Education Trust

Furness Education Trust in South Cumbria consists of five primaries and two secondaries with around 2,600 students and almost 500 staff.

Heading up operations is Amy Warner, who has spent the last 13 years working for the trust's founding school in governance, policy and comms roles. She has been Chief Operating Officer since September 2025, leading a central services team which provides HR, IT, finance, facilities, people management and marketing functions.

Furness Education Trust's relationship with Judicium began in 2023. There had been several changes in members of staff, and Amy was faced with "a square peg and round hole" situation as she searched for someone who could pick up the clerking role, which had become increasingly demanding and complex as the trust expanded.

The trust's seven schools have their own governing bodies, each holding three meetings a year. At trust level there are regular meetings of the trust board plus three to four meetings per year for each of the three trust board committees: quality of education and standards, remuneration, search and governance and finance, general planning, audit and risk.

"We were looking at a lot more meetings, and it was not feasible for one person to be picking that up on top of their day job," Amy explains.

> ***" We didn't have the expertise in our organisation for someone to take it on, or to learn what that role entailed."***



> ***"Consistency was another requirement, says Amy. "We needed to make sure we had someone at trust level to provide that consistency of communication, consistency of feedback and consistency of reminders across all of our governance."***

The trust now has its own dedicated remote clerk – Jane Wynn – who is, in Amy's words, "just brilliant".

Jane will help to set agendas and follow up with reminders about any jobs governors need to complete before meetings, such as reviewing and signing documentation.

"Jane will direct us to relevant changes and developments she thinks might be relevant to us that we might want to consider putting on the next agenda," Amy explains.

Jane will virtually attend meetings, offering advice throughout, and then put together detailed minutes. She's also on hand for any questions at any time.

If we're considering a certain courseof action, we can check with Judiciumif that is the right way of doing it."

Contact us

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> ***"It just takes a huge amount of pressure off us having that point of contact," says Amy. "If something comes up governance-related, if we've got an issue with one of our boards, or if someone's not sure how to do something, it's a quick email or phone call to Jane or one of her Judicium colleagues.***

An online platform which contains all the information boards need to govern effectively – is part of the Judicium service. "It's incredibly beneficial because it means that all our governors have access to papers online," says Amy. "There's none of this frantic printing of papers before a meeting – everything is uploaded beforehand, so everyone has an opportunity to review before the meeting."

With Furness's location and serving a mix of urban and rural areas, this access to up-to-the- minute expert advice makes a big difference to the effectiveness of the trust's governance. "We are very much in a cul-de-sac at the bottom of Cumbria," says Amy.

"There are a couple of trusts in town, but everyone's got their own way of working, so it's great that we can use Judicium as a professional sounding board. It helps us make sure that we are on top of the latest statutory and legal requirements and best practice and that we are continually moving forward."

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