



Meet our Board Members

The Board of Directors is made up of a mixture of individuals who collectively bring the enthusiasm, expertise and experience that are needed to guide a small independent school such as ours. *(See images of our Board Members on the following page.)*

The Board needs to cover, between its members and external advisers, the right mix of skills and expertise, including educational, legal, financial, strategic, marketing, HR, and other skill sets. All Directors undertake formal Board induction, as well as ongoing education made available by Independent Schools Victoria (ISV).

The Board has a process for ensuring that its membership remains balanced, and that there is an orderly succession process, as new Directors are recruited and inducted, and longer-serving directors retire.

Sophia Mundi Limited is organised as a not-for-profit company. Its Board of Directors are ultimately responsible for governance of the School, and are answerable to the corporate regulators (predominately ASIC) and to the State and Federal educational departments (VRQA and Department of Education and Training) for the quality of the delivered education, and to account for the funding that we receive from both jurisdictions. The Board reports at least annually to the Members of Sophia Mundi Ltd, who are a group of long-standing members of our community. Current Members includes present and founding parents, past and present staff, and past Directors.

The key responsibilities of a Board of Directors include governance, strategy, provision of audited financial reports, ensuring that our school registration conditions are met, and the appointment and support of the Principal. Directors may be allocated portfolio duties as required from time to time. The Board may create permanent or special Board committees and appoint community members to serve on or chair these committees.

In all Board matters, the driving criterion is what is the best outcome for the school, and its students.

Note that the Principal and Business Manager also attend most Board meetings.



Michael Arcella (Co-Chair)

Michael joined the Board in 2020 and has a daughter attending Sophia Mundi. Michael provides HR consulting services within the Local Government and Not for Profit Sectors. Prior to working as a consultant, he worked in the banking industry and was a lecturer at La Trobe University where he obtained his PhD in Management.

Damien Hicks (Co-Chair)

Damien joined the board in 2020 and has two children attending Sophia Mundi. He is a Professor in the Department of Physics at Swinburne University where he is a teacher, researcher and leader of the Complex Systems group. Damien spent two decades in the US before returning to Australia on an Australian Research Council Fellowship. He has a keen interest in mathematics and science education.



Cheryl Nekvapil (Director)

Cheryl Nekvapil joined the Board early in 2021. She has been an active parent, teacher and executive administrator at the Orana Steiner School in Canberra where she served on the School Board for many years until 2015 when she moved to Melbourne. For the past 20 years she has worked as a priest of The Christian Community incorporating incorporating Rudolf Steiner's world view and since 2008 has been engaged under the NSCP as a chaplain and in advisory roles in east coast Steiner Schools, including Sophia Mundi Steiner School.

Cheryl is married to Michael and they have four children and four grandchildren.