



Lesley Dowdall
Director of Development
Withington Girls' School

Lesley began her fundraising career at the Youth Sport Trust before moving to The University of Manchester in 2000 as their first Major Gifts Officer. Lesley became Deputy Director of Development and played a pivotal part in the team that increased philanthropic income from £2M in 2004 to £19M in 2017. At the University, Lesley was responsible for all aspects of fundraising, from the regular giving programme through to the transformational gift strategy, and in ensuring that all donors are recognised and stewarded in the best and most meaningful way possible. Lesley joined Withington Girls' School as Director of Development in January 2019 to lead a new focus on bursary fundraising and to continue to build on a strong alumnae engagement programme. She also serves as a Governor at her local state primary school and as a Trustee of Friends of Rosie, a children's cancer charity.