

GMAT

Guilsborough Multi Academy Trust

THE ROLE OF AN ACADEMY TRUSTEE



'Learning Without Limits'



The Role of Trustee

Academy trustees are volunteers. The Charity Commission defines trustees as the people responsible for governing a charity and directing how it is managed and run. Trustees are both charity trustees, under charity law and directors under company law.

The academy trust board provides:

Strategic leadership of the academy trust: the board defines the trust vision for high quality and inclusive education in line with its charitable objects. It establishes and fosters the trust's culture and sets and champions the trust strategy.

Accountability and assurance: the board has robust effective oversight of the operations and performance of the academy trust, including the provision of education, pupil welfare, overseeing and ensuring appropriate use of funding and effective financial performance and keeping their estate safe and well maintained.

Engagement: the board has strategic oversight of relationships with stakeholders. The board involves parents, schools and communities so that decision-making is supported by meaningful engagement.

The trust values the work of our academy trustees to hold the academy to account and to constructively monitor school progress. The trust board welcome people of all walks of life and experience and are keen to promote an inclusive and diverse board membership to reflect the community which it serves.

Useful skills and experience for trustees

Essential:

- Critical listening and the ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem solving and analysis

Desirable:

- Finance and/or accounting knowledge
- HR experience
- Leadership and management
- Risk management



What are the benefits of becoming a Trustee?

Our trustees find the role challenging, interesting and deeply rewarding because they can see how their work contributes to the well-being and prospects of students, staff and the whole community. It gives them a real opportunity to make a difference.

Time commitment

The time commitment for the trustee role will vary. There are 5 full board meetings, and one annual general meeting held each year. Trustees also sit on a committee focused on an area they have knowledge of, or are particularly interested in, for example, the finance audit and risk committee. Committees generally meet 5 times a year. Meetings are usually held in person although it is possible to attend some meetings via TEAMS.

Meetings start at 4pm and last for 2 hours.

Preparation for meetings includes reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders.

We are a welcoming and supportive board. Trustees are supported in their role by the governance professional and the other trustees. An induction session and training is provided to enable new trustees to discharge their role effectively.

Trustees are also expected to visit the school to meet with staff and gain an understanding of the issues and progress within the Academy.

The term of office is four years.

If you would like to know more about becoming an academy trustee, you can get in touch with our Governance Professional, Mrs Jo Baker:

Email: jbaker@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk