



Trustee Roles

Are you seeking an opportunity to give back to your local community by lending your expertise within the education sector to an academy trust board? By becoming a non-executive director at an academy trust, your range of skills and experience could help to improve the life chances of children and help our Trust to navigate the challenges they face.

The Nene Education Trust, based in North Northamptonshire is seeking 2 new trustees/non-executive directors with strong senior executive skills with an understanding of finance, marketing and the communities in which we operate.

About the Nene Education Trust

The Nene Education Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust based in North Northamptonshire, comprising 1 secondary and 7 primary schools in locations east of Wellingborough. We have around 3000 pupils.

The mixture of infant, primary and secondary schools enables children to complete their education through the Nene Education Trust with guided transitions between primary and secondary levels. These schools are:

Manor School Sports College	Windmill Primary School
Newton Road School	Raunds Park Infant School
Stanwick Primary School	Woodford Church of England Primary School and Nursery
St Peter's Church of England Academy	Redwell Primary School

Our mission

Raising aspirations and developing character is at the heart of everything we do within our schools to enable each young person to achieve highly and be successful in life contributing back to the world we live in.

Throughout their educational journey in the Nene Education Trust we aim to develop all our learners within a positive environment for learning along with opportunities to develop their spiritual and moral compass so that they grow with integrity.

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Through a shared set of principles we will develop a Multi-Academy Trust of highly effective and sustainable schools. As a group of schools working in collaboration as one we will improve and maintain high educational standards in order to advance education for the public benefit.

Plans for the future

Our strategic intent will be achieved by delivering the Trust Strategic Plan for 2021/26 through 6 key areas:

- Educational Excellence
- School Improvement
- Developmental Organisation
- Infrastructure
- Our Wellness
- Collective Responsibility

The key challenges for the board over the next 12-24 months are:

- Ensuring the impact of the model on improving educational excellence
- Developing a professional learning and development strategy
- Growth to create future capacity and efficiencies

Future plans:

- Build a strong infrastructure across the Trust
- Raise attainment and improve progression by improving provision
- Develop a self-improving school system
- Ensure excellence in leadership and governance

Summary of role requirements

The Nene Education Trust is seeking 2 new trustees/ non-executive directors with strong senior executive skills with an understanding of finance, marketing and the communities in which we operate.

For the roles we require individuals who can bring the following expertise in any or a combination of these areas:

- Knowledge and or experience of the community or communities in which our schools are based;
- Expertise in financial planning, monitoring, decision making, compliance and control within the school sector.
- Expertise in marketing, media and PR.
- Familiarity with the strategic nature of the board's functions and how this differs from, and works with, others including executive leaders and academy or regional committees.



Trustees – or non-executive directors - are both charity trustees and company directors of the multi-academy trust. The core functions of their role are: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding executive leaders to account for the educational, and financial performance of a charitable company funded by the public purse.

The board of trustees manages the business of the trust and may exercise all the powers of the trust in compliance with its charitable objects, company and charity law. In the interests of safeguarding and in accordance with DfE requirements, all trustee appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check.

Every trustee is expected to abide by the seven principles of public life set out by Lord Nolan: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Person specification

The strategic expertise required for these roles includes:

Essential (due to multiple roles, candidates may be accepted who possess one or more of the skills below)

- Finance
- Marketing/Media/PR
- Local community knowledge

Desirable

- Growth Management
- Corporate Governance
- Education

Time commitment

The full Trust Board meets five times a year and sub committees each meet up to four times a year. Trustees are expected to attend the meetings of the full Board and ONE subcommittee. Whilst meetings may be on different days (to suit trustee availability) they always begin at 6pm, last up to 2 hours each and are planned well in advance.

Trustees are encouraged to visit the schools where practical and relevant to their understanding of the schools.

Overall, it is expected that trustees will need to devote around 6 hours per month (on average) to Trust business. This will include reading documents ahead of meetings which can be done flexibly to suit individuals.

These are pro bono roles.



Location of board meetings

Board meetings are in normal circumstances held in person at one of the Trust schools, or the Trust Head Office, all of which are close to Wellingborough.

Trust website

For more information on the Trust, please see: <https://neneeducationtrust.org.uk/>

Background on academy trusts

Academy trusts, which are charities run independently of local authority control, now account for 74% of secondary schools and 31% of primaries – and their number is growing all the time.

Many of these schools are grouped together as multi-academy trusts (MATs). There are currently 900 multi academy trusts of 3+ schools. If the schools are to fulfil their potential, the trusts need non-executives (known in charity law as trustees) to bring a wide range of skills and experience to help guide strategy, ensure their ambitions can be soundly financed and keep their schools up to the mark delivering for their pupils.

Trusteeship is a voluntary, unpaid role for people who have the energy and skills to make a real contribution to shaping the future of our schools. You do not need to have any specialist knowledge of education.

Applications

If you are interested in applying for the role please send your CV and a short expression of interest detailing which role you are applying for to joinourteam@neneeducationtrust.org.uk

In the interests of safeguarding and in accordance with DfE requirements, all trustee appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check.

Please note: candidates should live within the Trust area and/or have a link with the area. For more information, please email the Governance Manager, Alison Woodward on awoodward@neneeducationtrust.org.uk

Key dates

We strongly recommend applying as early as you can to have the best possible chance of being considered as we may change the closing date if we have received sufficient applications. Applicants should be aware of the following key dates in the recruitment process:

Deadline for applications:

Close of play: Friday 3rd June 2022

Interviews:

w/c 13th June 2022