

05 April 2022

CAN YOU HELP OUR SCHOOLS?

Behind the schools in our Trust, sits a network of volunteers who make sure that it is well-managed, and delivering the best possible education to all our children. As governors and trustees, these volunteers set school strategic priorities, monitor performance, and support the school's development. The majority are not education professionals, but are drawn from among parents and members of the local community. Every person brings different skills and life experiences, and we welcome volunteers from all backgrounds.

We are now looking for committed and enthusiastic people to join us as governors and trustees. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you.

No previous experience of being a governor or Trustee is needed and training and support is offered to all new volunteers. And whilst these are unpaid volunteer positions, we can cover expenses to attend meetings and training, such as travel and childcare.

Why become a volunteer?

Being a governor or a trustee is a great opportunity to contribute to improving education for children and young people in our area and there are also many benefits to volunteers. You will develop new skills, meet new people and connect with an extensive network of governors across the city. Governors and trustees are involved in reviewing the finances, policies and performance of schools and you will develop your experience of reviewing strategy: all of these skills are highly valued in the workplace. And for those involved in education as parents or professionally it offers an opportunity to gain a broader perspective on the issues confronting schools.

What roles are available?

The schools in the Trust are Carr Junior School; Knavesmire, Scarcroft and Woodthorpe primary schools; and Millthorpe and York High secondary schools. Each school is overseen individually by a Local Governing Body, made up of governors. Collectively, the schools form the Trust which is managed by the Board of Trustees.

We currently have vacancies on most of the schools' Local Governing Bodies, as well as on the Board of Trustees.

As a Trust we want to better reflect the communities we serve so we're particularly looking to hear from potential Trustees who are women, Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic background, Disabled, with long term health conditions, and/or LGBTQIA+ who are currently underrepresented on our Board.

Support for disadvantaged pupils and those receiving pupil premium funding is a priority for the Trust and so we are keen to increase the experience (both professional and lived experience) on the board of these areas, and younger trustees/ governors (under 35).

What do the trustee roles involve?

Trustees work across the Multi Academy Trust. They work with the Trust management team and Headteachers, the trustees identify the strategic challenges across our schools and ensure that the right resources are in place to address them. They are ultimately responsible for all the schools in the Trust, including educational outcomes and financial performance.

We are currently recruiting to fill a number of positions on the Trust Board. There are some specific skill sets we are looking for on our Board, so we are keen to hear from potential candidates who may have:

- Experience in **finance or accountancy** in any commercial, charitable or educational context at a senior level.
- Experience of **school governance**. Service within any of the South Bank MAT schools would be great, but we are also happy to hear from anyone with relevant school governance experience;
- Experience in **HR and/or organisational development** in any commercial, charitable or educational context at a senior level.
- Experience in **education and/or social work sectors**. We're keen to hear both from individuals with experience working with disadvantaged communities and from people with lived experience.

Most importantly, we are looking for people with a range of skills and experiences who can contribute to leading our Trust, so no matter what your background skills are or experiences are - if you're interested in a Trustee role please do get in touch.

What's involved with being a governor?

Governors do not get involved with the day-to-day operations of the school, but instead hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for what the school does. Governors set the school's strategy; challenge and support the Headteacher on key decisions; monitor teaching and children's learning; and ensure that the school's budget is spent appropriately.

We currently have vacancies on most of our governing bodies. Governing bodies should include a range of skills and backgrounds, and different governing bodies may have different needs at different times. Many parents are naturally keen to support the school(s) their children attend, but we would encourage you also to consider volunteering at another Trust school, where your particular expertise and independent perspective might make more impact. As part of the Trust, all schools look to support and learn from each other, and our governors regularly collaborate.

Practically, being a governor involves attending regular meetings which are usually held in the evenings. There are generally two meetings each term. Governors are also sometimes asked to join a subcommittee which generally involves one additional meetings per term. Governors are also encouraged to visit their school during term time as part of the process of supporting and monitoring educational standards within the school.

Papers for meetings are sent out in advance electronically to allow governors to have read them, although paper copies can be supplied on request. Training and induction is offered to all new governors to help you get to understand your school – this might include meeting the chair and Headteacher for a briefing and attending online training to help you understand your new role.

Allowing for preparation for and attendance at meetings, typically a governor would be volunteering on average 5-10 hours a month.

How to apply and find out more?

If you'd like to find out more about these important roles, we'd love to hear from you. If you're interested in a Trustee role, please do get in touch for an informal chat on chair@southbanktrust.co.uk

If you're interested in becoming a governor you may find it helpful to speak to the school's Headteacher or Chair of Governors, who can be contacted through the school. Full details can be found on the Trust website at www.southbanktrust.co.uk or on the school website

We are also running a number of informal drop-in sessions where you can find out more about what Trustees and Governors do and meet some of the current volunteers. These sessions are:

- Wednesday 27th April – 9am – Woodthorpe Primary School
- Tuesday 3 May – 5:30pm – York High School
- Wednesday 4 May – 7pm – Zoom session
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84274301216?pwd=aHNKbTUyeFpMdUJ6Wk5SQjNRWldWUT09>

To apply, please contact the Trust's Governance Adviser Sophie Triffitt on clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk or 01904 554210

The application deadline is Monday 9 May. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Ian Wiggins
Chair of Trustees