



## Multi Academy Trust: Director/Trustee Role

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Academies are both charities and companies limited by guarantee. Academy trustees are therefore both charity trustees and company directors and must comply with company and charity law.

### Trust Board

Within a multi academy trust structure the Trust Board will be responsible for setting the strategic direction, ensuring financial stability and holding the executive leaders to account, further details are provided below:

- Strategic leadership of the academy trust  
Your role is to help set and embed your Trust's vision and strategy, and use these to monitor how the trust and its schools are progressing towards your strategic goals
- Accountability and assurance, meaning the Board has robust oversight of the operations and performance of the trust, including education, student welfare and finance  
You will monitor these areas and hold trust leaders to account for performance and compliance in them
- Engagement  
This means your Board has strategic oversight of relationships with the trust's stakeholders: parents/carers, students, staff, local communities
  - You will make sure your schools and your trust are communicating with and involving these groups, so that decision-making is supported by meaningful engagement

### Responsibilities

- Develop the trust's vision and strategy
- Establish a culture of high educational standards that promotes staff and student wellbeing
- Set the trust's strategic aims and objectives
- Make sure all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Monitor provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Monitor educational performance of the trust's academies, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents/carers, students, staff and the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Approve the budget for the academy trust and, where relevant, for academies within the trust
- Monitor and evaluate the trust's financial performance
- Approve and review trust policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation

- Ensure the trust is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
- Make sure the trust complies with laws that apply to charities and companies, and with its funding agreement
- Carry out the appointment and performance management of the principal/chief executive
- Be a source of challenge and support to the principal/chief executive
- Monitor and evaluate the trust's staffing structure(s)
- Monitor health and safety in the academy/across the trust
- In a multi-academy trust, work with those involved in local academy governance, supporting and holding them to account

### **Skills and experience**

Trustees are volunteers from various professional backgrounds and they will bring to the Trust a diverse set of skills. At Instant Learning Trust the Essential and Desirable skills that are sought

#### **Essential**

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

#### **Desirable**

- Finance and/or accounting knowledge
- Risk management skills
- Legal expertise, particularly knowledge of charity law

### **Benefits to you**

In your role you will also get the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Strategic planning
- Experience on a board
- Holding senior leaders to account and the ability to provide challenge
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of potentially multimillion-pound budgets
- Analysing data
- Human resources and performance management
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication and teamwork
- Decision-making
- Problem solving

### **Time commitment**

The Trust Board is currently scheduled to meet six times per year and committees are also scheduled to meet 6 times per year. It is acknowledged that working professionals may not always be able to attend all meetings, however, the baseline expectation will be to attend at least two thirds of the meetings.

Our Trust engages with the GovernorHub platform and all strategic documentation, including those for meetings are shared via this platform. Preparation for meetings typically includes reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders.

Our Trust offers opportunities for professional development and you will also be expected to undertake some key training e.g. safeguarding to enable you to discharge your role effectively.

Trustees are also expected to visit schools within the Trust during the academic year and this commitment will be discussed in more detail with the successful applicant.