

Governance Vacancies – Trustees for EAST

Trustees have a significant role in maintaining and raising school standards, providing strategic leadership and accountability in our schools. We truly appreciate the dedication these individuals give as volunteers and fully recognise the contribution they make to the effectiveness of our schools and the Trust as a whole. Schools excel when leadership is strong. Both at Trust and School level, our Trustees and Governors are very much part of this leadership.

We are extremely proud of what our schools achieve individually and collectively. Bungay, Farlingaye and Kesgrave High Schools are very popular and successful secondary schools whilst Castle EAST, our first Special School for children with communication and interaction needs, is now open.

Individuals are entitled to time off work for governance duties. Depending on the employers, this may be on a paid or unpaid basis. Many employers will welcome the new or existing skills that you will develop in such a rewarding and important role.

What do Trustees do?

The governance of EAST has three levels:

Members have an important role to play in overseeing and holding trustees to account. They have ultimate control over the Trust, and appoint the Trustees. The most significant role they undertake is to hold the Trust Board to account and ensure that the Trust is well led. Members meet three times a year.

Trustees make up the Board and are responsible under the Academy Trust's Articles of Association for controlling its management and administration. They have responsibility for directing EAST's affairs and for ensuring that it is solvent, well run, and delivering the trust's charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public. The Trust Board is accountable for the performance of all the schools within EAST. The Trust Board meets six times a year and Trustees are also involved with at least one Committee: Education, Finance and Audit, Human Resources. We currently have vacancies for Trustees.

Local Governing Bodies (LGB) are made up of Governors who work at a local level within our schools and are significant in driving the Trust's vision forwards in line with the needs and aims of the school, underpinned by the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. Currently each school within EAST has its own LGB. Whilst the LGB is not accountable statutorily, it has a truly crucial role in supporting and robustly challenging our schools so that they provide the very best education for students; this aim unites our schools and underpins our governance model.

Can I become a Trustee?

There are no particular qualifications, experiences or expertise required to become a Trustee. It is crucial, however, that you are committed to our vision of delivering the best possible education to all students, and that you have the interpersonal skills to work with other people collaboratively and cooperatively.

It is important that Trustees have working skill sets that are relevant and needed on our Trust Board Team. These may range significantly and include areas such as safeguarding, education, risk management, finance, HR, project management and estates. In particular, experience of primary phase education would be an advantage. We do, however, recognise that skills may come from diverse experiences and embrace this.

Trustees must be over 18 years of ages and any appointment is always subject to safeguarding (enhanced DBS) and identity checks. All 'vetting' is fully underpinned by effective safeguarding practice in line with the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education legislation.

Why should I become a Trustee?

We feel that this is a genuine opportunity to **make a difference** to the lives of so many young people. Working with a group of **likeminded and progressive individuals** not only provides a great sense of **satisfaction** and **reward**, it also supports the development of our Trustees skills set. It is without doubt that such a role does require a time commitment but the **positive challenge** that our Trustees encounter together gives rise to a great **sense of purpose** and impressive 'sharing' of expertise to support schools in making the 'right' choices. As an individual who is passionate about the local communities we serve, and passionate about making a real impact on the lives of young people, we have no doubt that such a role also brings a sense of **enjoyment and comradery** too. It is not necessary to have a knowledge of the education sector and **support** will be provided for those who are keen to embark on this adventure with the existing Trustees at EAST.

What are the next steps?

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a Trustee, please contact our CEO, Angelo Goduti (mail@eastanglianschoolstrust.co.uk), for an initial conversation. Further information about EAST can also be found on our website www.eastanglianschoolstrust.co.uk

A brief CV and letter (of no more than one side of A4) detailing your experience, expertise and why you would like to become a Trustee at EAST should be sent to Emma Power, Trust Administrator (epower@eastanglianschoolstrust.co.uk), by 27th September 2021 at midday. Letters should be addressed to Tim Fosker, Chair of Members. It is intended that interested individuals will be invited to meet the team for a more in-depth discussion during the week commencing 4th October 2021.