

East Midlands Academy Trust - Trustee Vacancies

EMAT is seeking excellent individuals who can offer their time and expertise to sit on the Trust Board. The Trust was first established in 2012 and now has seven schools across Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes, educating approximately 5,000 children and young people between the ages of 3 and 19.

East Midlands Academy Trust comprises of Orchard Academy, Shepherdswell Academy, Castle Academy, Hardingstone Academy, Stimpson Avenue Academy, Prince William School and Northampton International Academy.

"Every child deserves to be the best they can be" The trust believes that all children and young people in its care should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential regardless of their ability or background

Plans for the future

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

- To improve student achievements and exceed national standards.
- To strengthen governance through appointment of additional directors.
- To ensure effective succession planning for strong governance.
- To embed trust procedures and practices.
- To ensure that the trust growth strategy is measured and realistic and does not distract from the current schools.

Trust Ethos & Values

We are driven by a strong moral purpose that every child has the right to outstanding teaching and leadership. It is our passion to work with our children, their parents and carers and our staff to create world-class schools that demonstrate integrity of purpose through high aspiration for every child. We set high expectations for our leaders and teachers to support and stretch every child to ensure they make excellent progress and build the skills, knowledge and attributes that will prepare them well for secondary school and beyond.



Our values, ***Inclusion, Innovation, Inspiration, Integrity and Impact*** are the foundations of the trust and the communities it serves.

Background on Academy Trusts

Academy schools, which are charities ran independently of local authority control, now account for 71% of secondary schools and 26% 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 980 multi academy trusts of 2+ 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.

“Academy boards must be ambitious for all children and young people and infused with a passion for education and a commitment to continuous school improvement that enables the best possible outcomes. Governance must be grounded in reality as defined by both high-quality objective data and a full understanding of the views and needs of pupils/students, staff, parents, carers and local communities. It should be driven by inquisitive, independent minds and through conversations focused on the key strategic issues which are conducted with humility, good judgement, resilience and determination.” **Source: Governance Handbook, Department for Education (2017)**

Trustees

Trustees – or non-executive directors - are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust; the role is to hold to account the executive and senior leadership team. The board of trustees manages the business of the academy trust and may exercise all the powers of the trust. The trustees ensure compliance with the trust’s charitable objects and with company and charity law.

Non-executive directors will be responsible for maintaining stability during a period of rapid growth and the management of a dynamic structure. The role also includes contributing to financial planning for sustainability and growth, and holding the CEO/CFO to account.

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.

Person Specification

Professional experience in areas such as HR, legal, health & safety, safeguarding or project management are all useful in a trust. Soft skills such as leadership, communication and problem solving are also great additions. Above all, we need people who have the desire and can commit time to make our schools wonderful places, and nurture a secure and engaging environment in which we all thrive. We are currently looking for candidates with expertise in any of the following fields:

- Safeguarding
- Growth Management
- Branding/Marketing
- Corporate Governance
- Education
- Change Management
- Risk

Time Commitment

6 hours per month, minimum. Trustees attend between 7 and 10 meetings per year which may be a mixture of face-to-face and online meetings. There is an expectation of the role that trustees will get involved in some other activities across the Trust such as sitting on some complaint and exclusion panels and carrying out monitoring visits in schools.

If you would like to discuss the role, or have any other queries, please contact Juliette Pierson, Head of Governance and Compliance, via email Juliette.Pierson@emat.uk or phone 07799 478875.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and this position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.