



## Trustee Vacancy Information for SOUTH PENNINE ACADEMIES

### South Pennine Academies

The trust is based in Kirklees and is currently seeking four new trustees in areas of: HR, Finance, Premises/Estates and Risk analysis.

### **What do trustees do?**

These roles have a dual function – as well as operating as a trustee of the academy trust as a charity, volunteers are classed as Non-Executive Directors, listed on Companies House and subject to company law. You'll be responsible for contributing to the strategic decision-making of the board, helping the trust to realise immediate and long-term goals, and ultimately ensuring transparency, accountability and, challenge.

From large national trusts to small community-based trusts, you can work with our regional experts to find a suitable match.

Board governance in education is considered a strategic, "eyes on, hands off" commitment, requiring that you give up to eight hours per month of your time and attend up to six meetings across a 12-month period.

The key functions of the board are

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account – both for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Overseeing the organisation's financial performance and ensuring its funds are directed to the best possible educational outcomes for young people

### **What the trust is looking for**

The board then has three committees that look in detail at the Quality of Education, Finance & Resources, and Audit & Risk. The committees meet two to three times a year.

#### Skill Requirement:

Finance – This candidate does not have to be a qualified accountant but they are likely to be highly adept in understanding company accounts and have managed a budget in excess of £40m

Property/Premises/FM – The Trust has two PFI contracts which are moving towards the end of their life and thus will be handed over to the Trust in the next few years. The Trust is keen to have someone to keep a watchful eye over the final stages of the contract and also to provide greater support and challenge on property and asset matters on existing and any potential new projects.

Legal – The Trust already has the valued support of a legal expert who supports the Board remotely. With the closure of the PFI contracts and other contracting challenges the Trust is keen to ensure trustees are able to provide challenge to legal advice to ensure the best possible outcomes.

HR – A trustee with a strong track record in HR and experience operating at a strategic level will add challenge to the new HR Director who is due to be appointed during Summer 2023.

Governance, Compliance and Risk - The Trust would also welcome candidates with expertise this this area.

**What difference will you make? What's in it for the volunteer?**

Volunteering on an academy trust board is deeply rewarding as it allows you to impact the life chances of young people. Academy trusts support schools to give children a better future. For young people to have the best possible opportunities in later life, it's vital we have individuals with the right expertise leading schools and holding executive teams accountable. Becoming a trustee is a fantastic opportunity to give back to your local community by strengthening education.

As well as looking for new opportunities to give something back to society, you may be looking for opportunities to build your experience in strategic decision-making at senior level or demonstrate your ability to perform in a non-executive position as part of a portfolio career.

**All roles are pro bono.**

People from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Governing boards should represent the communities they serve, as well as wider society. We welcome interest from underrepresented groups to ensure academy trust boards are diverse in background, skillset, and thought.

Diversity is a powerful instrument for effective governance. Trustees are required to make choices that impact the daily lives of children, from school finance all the way through to staff and pupil recruitment. It's essential that boards possess a broad set of beliefs, experiences, and ideas to inform their final judgements. We believe that true representation at board level enables all children to fulfil their potential.

**To apply:**

You will need to complete an application form.

The GfS team assesses each volunteer's background, skills, and experience and identifies suitable openings on academy trusts boards.

If you are interested in this trust in particular, please indicate so on your application form and the team will consider this.