

# South Bank Multi Academy Trust

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## Trustee, South Bank Multi Academy Trust Positions beginning May/June 2022 Information to guide applicants

### INTRODUCTION

The South Bank Multi Academy Trust is an educational Trust established in April 2016 comprising six schools located in the southern half of York: Carr Junior School; Knavesmire, Scarcroft and Woodthorpe primary schools; and Millthorpe and York High secondary schools. It is managed by a Board of Trustees who delegate most authority for the running of the schools to Local Governing Bodies.

We are seeking a number of individuals to join our Trust Board, to help guide the strategic development of the Trust and deliver outstanding education in our schools.

### OUR CURRENT VACANCIES

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 (under 35).

No previous experience of being a 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.

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 also 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 or experiences are - if you're interested in a Trustee role please do get in touch.

Successful candidates will have inquisitive, independent minds, the ability to work strategically as part of a team, as well as a demonstrable commitment to the Trust's ethos and values. Humility, good judgement, resilience and determination are essential.

As the Trust is grounded in its community, we wish to draw our Trustees primarily from those who work or live in York and its surrounding areas.

We welcome applicants from anyone in the wider community who supports our ethos and mission as a charity. Applicants with children at one of the schools are welcome to apply however current employees of the MAT's schools are not eligible.

## **WHAT DO TRUSTEES DO?**

As the accountable body, the Board is the key decision maker in the Trust. It delegates operational matters to executive leaders, and governance functions to committees (including local governors), but the Board remains accountable and responsible for all decisions made.

The Board has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the education performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff, and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

In legal terms, the Board of Trustees is also the Board of Directors – each Trustee will be appointed as a Director of the MAT company. More detailed information about the role of the Trust Board can be found in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/788234/governance\\_handbook\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788234/governance_handbook_2019.pdf)

Trustees must comply with all relevant and applicable laws and regulations, including the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Charities Commission. A useful guide to Trustee responsibilities can be found [here](#). Every Trustee must be a fit and proper person for a position of public service, and not disqualified from directorship. The Trust is committed to safeguarding children and would require a successful applicant to undergo a full Disclosure and Barring Service check prior to appointment.

We welcome applications from first-time trustees and support and information about the role and responsibilities of Trustees, and training, will be offered.

### **WHAT IS THE EXPECTED LEVEL OF COMMITMENT?**

The Board meets approximately six times a year currently as a mix of in-person and hybrid meetings. Meetings are currently held in the early evenings and scheduled well in advance. Trustees will also join either the Finance and Audit Committee, or the Education and Standards Committee, each of which meet at least three times per year. In addition, it is expected that each Trustee would make one or two visits to one of the Trust's schools each year, and attend training as required.

### **HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?**

Being a Trustee is a significant time contribution and want to ensure we make best use of your skills, knowledge and time. We also appreciate it takes time to understand the role and the organisation and we are committed to providing new Trustees with the support you need to fulfil your role well. New trustees are also offered induction and training, such as meetings with the Trust Principal and Chair, opportunities for guided visits the schools, a 'buddy' from the existing Trustees to answer any informal questions, and access to a range of high quality online courses that cover core aspects of the role. The Chair meets with all Trustees annually to review their involvement and discuss any training or support needed.

### **WHAT BEING A TRUSTEE COULD OFFER YOU?**

Being a trustee is a great opportunity to contribute to improving education for children and young people in our community and there are also many benefits for individuals taking on these positions. You will develop new skills, meet new people and connect with an extensive network of Trustees and governors across the city. For those involved professionally in working with children and young people, being a Trustee of a MAT offers an opportunity to gain a broader perspective on the issues confronting schools.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

If you would like more information on the role, or would like to discuss this further, please contact our Governance Adviser Sophie Triffitt on [clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk](mailto:clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk) who will be able to set up a conversation with the Chair of Trustees or another current member of the Board.

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=aHNKbTUyeFpMdUJ6Wk5SQjNRWWdWUT09>

If you wish to apply for the role please send your CV and a short covering letter explaining why you would be suitable to Sophie Triffitt at [clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk](mailto:clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk) by Monday 9 May.

After we've reviewed these expressions of interest we will then invite potential Trustees to meet with some of the current members of the Board to talk further about your experiences, what you would like to bring to the Trust, and any further questions you have about the role.