



The North Cotswold Schools Trust has opportunities for Trustee/Directors

The North Cotswold Schools Federation is recruiting for volunteers to join the existing Directors on the Trust Board, (currently eight with a potential membership of thirteen), who are keen to make a difference across our family of schools, have suitable skills or experience which may suit this role and have time to spare a few hours a month assisting and supporting the Trust's strategic work.

We are specifically interested to receive expressions of interest from people with the following skills/background:

- Finance and risk
- Legal
- HR
- Estate

Some of the more general skills we are keen to utilise include:

- The ability to receive, read, understand and question sometimes complex information
- An understanding of the education landscape (particularly primary phase) or a willingness to undertake training
- A commitment to safeguarding practices, including a willingness to receive regular safeguarding training and a clear enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (this will be undertaken upon appointment)
- Availability to attend Trust Board meetings; we have between one and two per school term; these meetings last around 2 hours and may be a mixture of daytime/evening and face-to-face or online. Costs incurred in taking up the role – for example, travel costs or formal childcare arrangements – can be compensated through our expenses policy.

The Department for Education (DfE) states the three core functions of governance are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the Trust and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the Trust and making sure its money is well spent

This means we need people who can ask the right high-level questions, whilst always keeping the children at the heart of all we do.

The School Trust is a charity governed under company law, currently comprising four Church of England schools:

- St James, Chipping Campden and Ebrington
- Longborough
- Lower Swell
- Cold Aston

We are supporting two other primary schools to join our trust with the approval of the Education Boards of the Diocese of Gloucester, subject to DfE approval. Conversations continue with other schools in the wider area about how we can support them in delivering high quality education, and potential membership of our trust to ensure their future sustainability.

The North Cotswolds is a region with hidden hardship among the picturesque landscape, and supporting pupils, their families and communities is a function that often falls to the schools. We have strong links with local agencies, draw on community strength and generosity, and think creatively to deliver high quality education to our pupils. Our trust has a pastoral lead, a special educational needs co-ordinator, a sports lead and provides focussed inputs at hubs on Longborough and Ebrington. We have good links with our local secondary schools, local businesses and charities but are always looking for opportunities to expand this network.

Being a director means not just attending meetings but also visiting the Trust's schools occasionally in between meetings in order to get to know the schools more, and find out how the schools support and challenge our wonderful pupils. It also involves keeping in touch with what's happening across the Trust and making decisions in accordance with the Trusts articles of association, Vision, Ethos and Values.

You could make a real difference and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please note that in order for an individual to become a Director, the Trust must undertake a number of legal checks including:

- *An enhanced DBS check without barred list information. They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.*
- *A section 128 check (to check prohibition on participation in management under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008).*
- *Identity*
- *Right to work in the UK*
- *Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK*

For more information please contact Martin Nicholas chair@ncsf.school, or our Governance Professional Kevin Fletcher clerk@ncsf.school