

# Share Multi-Academy Trust

**Share Multi Academy Trust seeks two new non-executive directors to join its board. The partnership, formed in 2015, currently consisting of one secondary and three primary schools in West Yorkshire, with two further secondary schools looking to join in 2018. Board meetings are held in the Kirklees area.**

## Plans for the Future

Outline of key challenges for the next 12 months includes:

1. Maintaining a board with members who have the skills and knowledge to challenge leaders about key performance indicators. To evaluate the performance of leaders and governing bodies.
2. Measuring risks and mitigating effectively against them through use of a computerised risk management register and the operations of its trust risk management committee.
3. Growing the trust with new schools helping it to achieve its core goals and work in accordance with its values.
4. To build robust and sustainable financial and business approaches to allow the trust to meet its objectives for children's development.

## Trust ethos & values

Share Multi-Academy Trust summarises its core values as 'Valuing People, Supporting Personal Best'.

The trust values the happiness of its pupils and members of staff and believes that schools should be safe, positive environments where every pupil is encouraged to achieve their personal potential and helped to overcome obstacles.

The trust believes that helping people feel valued is key to the achievement of their personal best; the highest standard that they can be expected to achieve. It therefore sets ambitious goals for every pupil and aims to provide the assistance required in order for pupils to be successful.

## Role Summary

Number of Positions Advertised: 2

### Trustee/Non-Executive Director

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 significant 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.

The competencies required for this role include:

**Essential:**

- CFO/Finance or Risk

**Desirable (Heading 6 on web)**

- CEO/General Management
- Change Management
- Growth Management

### Person specification 1

The ideal candidate will have the skills and experience required to advise on the trust's financial policies and procedures of the organisation, including its funding arrangements, funding streams and its mechanisms for ensuring financial accountability. The trust is looking for an individual with a basic understanding of financial management in order to ensure the integrity of financial information received by the board and to establish robust financial controls. This individual should have the confidence to participate in the organisation's self-evaluation of activities relating to financial performance, efficiency and control.

### Person specification 2

A knowledge of the principles of risk management and how these may apply to education and the organisation is necessary; as is a knowledge of the process for risk management in the organisation, especially how and when risks are escalated through the organisation for action. The individual should be able to identify and prioritise the organisational and key risks, their impact and appropriate countermeasures, contingencies and risk owners. They will be asked to advise on how risks should be managed or mitigated to reduce the likelihood or impact of the risk and on how to achieve the right balance of risk.

### Time commitment

2 hours per month, minimum.

## Location of Board Meetings and Trust Website

<http://www.sharemat.org/>

Shelley College, Huddersfield Rd, Shelley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 8NL

Heaton Avenue Primary School, South Parade, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 3AE

Millbridge J,I&N School, Vernon Road, Liversedge, West Yorkshire WF15 6HU

Cowlersley Primary School, Main Avenue, Cowlersley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD4 5US

## Governance Structure

<http://www.sharemat.org/attachments/download.asp?file=12&type=pdf>

## Background on academy trusts

Academy schools, which are charities run 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)*

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.

## Applications

Academy Ambassadors is a non-profit programme which recruits senior business leaders and professionals as volunteer non-executive directors onto the boards of multi-academy trusts. If you are interested in applying for the role please send your CV and a short expression of interest detailing which role you are applying for to [academyambassadors@newschoolsnetwork.org](mailto:academyambassadors@newschoolsnetwork.org). Please note candidates should live within reasonable travelling distance of the trust and/or have a link with the region. For more information, please call 0207 952 8556 or visit [www.academyambassadors.org](http://www.academyambassadors.org).

## Key dates

We strongly recommend applying as early as you can to have the best possible chance of being considered as we may change the closing date if we have received sufficient applications. Applicants should be aware of the following key dates in the recruitment process –

**Deadline for applications: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

Interviews: TBC