



The Learning for Life Partnership

The Learning for Life Partnership (LFLP) is a multi-academy trust (MAT) with five primary schools all based in the Cheshire East local authority. The trust seeks to recruit up to two new trustees with experience in governance, preferably in either an education setting or multi-disciplined public facing organisation or a background in communications. Board meetings are held at the trust's office at Shavington Primary School although for the foreseeable future will be held remotely.

About the trust

The Learning for Life Partnership was formed to ensure there is high quality partnerships for school-to-school support in the area. The schools take pupils from different communities. The trust believes that schools are at the heart of the communities that they serve and the leaders in the schools are best placed to devise the best experiences for the children in their schools.

The LFLP currently consists of five primary schools: Shavington Primary School (Ofsted 'Good'), Wheelock Primary School (Ofsted 'Outstanding'), Wistaston Church Lane Academy (Ofsted 'Good'), Leighton Academy and Daven Primary School (Ofsted 'Requires Improvement').

The schools within the LFLP work collaboratively, sharing expertise and are developing an aligned core curriculum offer that is stimulating and motivating children to love learning. As an 'outward-looking' organisation the trust seeks to learn from others as well as its own good practice and expertise.

The trust plans to grow in a controlled and gradual manner. However, the key aims during the current year are to work the improvement of standards and educational outcomes within the current global pandemic.

Plans for the future

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

- To manage Covid19 implications.
- To continue improving the two schools rated 'Requires Improvement' – the trust aims to ensure these are both rated as at least 'Good';
- To further develop its central hub which provides individual and quality services to its schools including HR, Finance and ICT support, whilst increasing opportunities for collaboration and over the longer term, the trust is looking to manage the risk factors associated with growth, as well as balancing the targeted improvement of educational outcomes with sustainable financial management.

Trust mission and aims

Mission

Working in Partnership to Improve Education and Life Chances for all.

Aims

- Effective partnerships
- Inspirational leadership
- Aspirational education



Role summary

Number of positions advertised:

2

Roles 1 & 2 – Trustee

Trustees are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust; the role of which 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.

Trustees will be responsible for maintaining stability and the management of a dynamic structure. The role also includes contributing to financial planning for sustainability and potential growth, and holding the CEO/CFOO to account.

Person specification

Every trustee is expected to abide by the trust's code of conduct and the seven principles of public life set out by Lord Nolan: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The Competency Framework for Governance (DfE) 2017 details the knowledge, skills and behaviors required for effective governance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583733/Competency_framework_for_governance_.pdf

The strategic expertise required for this role includes:

Essential (due to multiple roles, candidates possessing some of the skills below may be considered)

- **Governance, preferably in either an education setting or multi-disciplined public facing organisation OR a background in communications**

Desirable

- Risk
- Restructuring
- Growth
- Change management

The trust seeks up to two individuals with extensive and significant experience in the fields of governance, preferably in an education setting and communications to bring depth of knowledge, critical challenge and scrutiny to its board.

Experience of leading the restructuring of a medium-sized or large organisation, along with knowledge of the governance expectations and requirements of this is also advantageous.

Experience and willingness to work constructively and effectively with accordance to the 'Nolan Principles: Standard of Public Life' are essential.

Candidates should be aware of the following requirements when applying for a role with The Learning for Life Partnership:



- Trustees are required to attend a board meeting every term, held at the trust offices at Shavington School or remotely as appropriate
- Trustees will normally be expected to serve on at least one other sub-committee of the board;
- Trustees are occasionally called upon to attend, either in person or by telephone or video link, ad hoc meetings as required.

Time commitment

6 hours per month minimum; two meetings per term.

Location of board meetings and trust website

LFLP Trust office, Shavington Primary School, Southbank Avenue, Shavington, Crewe CW2 5DP or remotely.

www.thelearningforlifepartnership.com

Governance structure

<https://www.thelearningforlifepartnership.com/members-and-directors>

Background on academy trusts

Academy schools, which are charities run independently of local authority control, now account for 74% of secondary schools and 31% 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 832 multi academy trusts of 3+ 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 (2019)

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

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 admin@tflp.co.uk

Please note: candidates should live within reasonable travelling distance of the trust and/or have a link with the region.



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: Friday 4th December 2020