



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6653439

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust - Trustee vacancy

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT) is a multi-Academy Trust (MAT) based in South East Northumberland. Comprising 9 schools spanning primary, secondary, further education and special educational needs. The Trust aims to provide an inclusive and diverse learning environment, underpinned by Christian values, where pupils are enabled and encouraged to “Let their light shine”.

At NCEAT, we believe in an education system that prepares pupils for success. Our ultimate goal is to develop well-rounded, highly capable individuals who, with the support of our talented teaching and support staff, can complete their learning journey with the skills and confidence that they need to take their next steps into higher education or employment. To us, school is about more than what you learn in a classroom, it's about developing skills for life in a forward-thinking environment which promotes a culture of aspiration and success, alongside inclusion and a sense of social responsibility. We fulfil our vision and values through creating an inclusive, nurturing culture where all pupils are valued and empowered to flourish.

First established as a MAT in 2009 in Ashington, NCEAT now also has schools in Warkworth and Alnwick with more than 2,500 students and a workforce of over 500 staff. As a MAT our schools are supported by a dedicated central team, including senior leaders responsible for finance, operations, governance and HR.

With schools in several tough catchment areas and with a high number of pupils with special educational needs, the Trust has a real focus on ensuring the best educational outcomes for all students regardless of the environment. For prospective Trustees, NCEAT offers the opportunity to contribute to the governance of an organisation that seeks to make a real difference to pupils' lives. Trustees are encouraged to understand the communities and challenges of the individual schools, while still operating at a strategic level.

Our Board currently comprises 11 Trustees with a broad range of educational and non-educational experience, most of whom have supported the Trust for a number of years. The Board has delegated specific roles to committees, including the Finance, Operations and Risk Committee and the individual schools' Local Governing Bodies.

NCEAT is looking for a new Trustee for its Board of Directors who will also be a member of its Finance, Operations and Risk Committee.

Website URL

<https://www.ncea.org.uk>

Position

Director (Trustee)

Location

South East Northumberland

Time Commitment

6 Board meetings per year

6 Committee meetings a year

Remuneration

Unpaid/ Expenses only

Skill Sought

Finance; Risk; Strategy

Closing Date: Open until appointed

Position Description

The Trustee will be a member of the Board of Trustees (directors) of NCEAT as well as a member of its Finance, Operations and Risk Committee (**FORC**). The FORC has been delegated authority by the Board for the execution oversight, governance and validation of the Trust's responsibilities as outlined in the extant version of the Academy Trust Handbook (**ATH**). It also has high level responsibility and ownership of risk management, financial operations, controls and fiscal governance as well as accountability for all broader business support and central services functions.

Core responsibilities as a Trustee include:

- Defining and overseeing NCEAT's vision, values and long-term strategy
- Holding executive leaders to account, monitoring performance and ensuring executive leaders deliver NCEAT's strategic objectives
- Ensuring compliance and governance; compliance with applicable laws and that NCEAT meets its statutory objectives
- Overseeing the strategic risks facing NCEAT, including financial risks, are managed appropriately
- Ensuring financial oversight, taking responsibility for NCEAT's financial sustainability
- Ensuring an ongoing focus of the Board on the educational outcomes for pupils at NCEAT's schools
- Ensuring effective governance, appropriate delegations and strong communication with key stakeholders, including the local governing bodies

Core responsibilities as a member of FORC include:

- Understanding the financial position of NCEAT, review of management accounts and other financial information and the annual budget for approval by the Trust Board.
- Agreeing financial procedures and controls and ensuring that relevant legal and regulatory requirements are adhered to
- Approving annual audited financial statements and external audit reports for approval by the Trust Board and the recommendation of external auditors to NCEAT's members
- Reviewing and approving procurement strategies, ensuring that internal procedures are adhered to and purchasing and other contracts provide value for money
- Ensuring that NCEAT's central functions operate efficiently provide effective support to NCEAT's schools
- Overseeing significant operational risks facing NCEAT and approval of NCEAT's business continuing plan

Diversity

NCEAT welcomes applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, belief or disability. All appointments will be made on merit, following a fair and transparent process. In line with the Equality Act 2010, however, the organisation may employ positive action where candidates from underrepresented groups can demonstrate their ability to perform the role equally well.

Terms of appointment

- Board and Committee meetings are held in person in Ashington and are scheduled first thing in the morning six times per year.
- Trustees are invited to an annual governance engagement day and may be asked to attend ad hoc meetings (for example for appeal hearings).
- Candidates should be able to attend in-person meetings in Ashington, Northumberland, with remote attendance an exception rather than the norm.
- The role is for an initial four-year term.

Selection Criteria**Essential criteria:**

- Current or recent finance experience within an organisation of an equivalent size. An understanding of how public sector organisations are funded would be an advantage
- Experience of financial strategy, governance, control, sustainability and organisational resilience
- Ability to make decisions and take a strategic view

The following will be looked on favourably:

- Risk or audit management experience
- Experience of working within a MAT, school or charity environment

- Previous experience as a director or committee member
- Sustainability experience

Personal qualities

- Sound judgement and integrity
- Collaborative and collegiate approach
- Gravitas, but with an ability to engage at all levels of an organisation

How to Apply

Please send your CV together with a covering letter and details of two referees to governance@ncea.org.uk

All Trustee appointments are subject to interview and DBS checks.