



The Athelstan Trust

Member required to join the governance of a Multi Academy Trust

The Athelstan Trust is a Multi Academy Trust consisting of four secondary schools in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire responsible for the education of over 3,000 students. We are a collaborative family of schools that aims to achieve the best for and from each child.

In every MAT, there are three tiers of governance – Members, trustees and local governors. The Members of the Athelstan Trust are recruiting to fill vacancies for additional members. This is a voluntary position.

The role in summary

Members are similar to a company's shareholders. They provide oversight and scrutiny of the work of the trust board. Members ensure accountability for the decision-making and strategy of the trust. The role is high level, comprising in summary the duties to:

- Amend the Articles of Association
- Appoint or remove Trustees
- Appoint the trust's auditors
- Receive the trust's audited accounts
- Take an overview of the governance and operations throughout the year

Desirable competencies

Members should have an understanding of the role of governance in public life. This may have been gained in a wide range of leadership roles. They are likely to have previous experience as a non-executive director or a trustee role. However, the key competencies required are the ability to take a strategic view of the trust, the board and act in the long-term interest of the students. Members are expected to demonstrate the Nolan principles of public life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership).

Time Commitment

Members meet once a year at the trust's annual general meeting (AGM) in January

How to apply

Please submit a CV and one page expression of interest to jcummings@theathelstantrust.org. You will be invited to meet the chairs of the members and trustees and the Chief Executive Officer for a tour of one of our schools and an opportunity to discuss the role further.





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Key responsibilities of Members of Multi Academy Trust Boards:

The members of an academy trust are the guardians of the governance of the trust. They:

- Can pass a special resolution to amend the articles of association
- Can appoint trustees, according to the trust's articles of association, and can also remove serving trustees
- Can pass a special resolution to direct the trustees to take a specific action
- Can change the name of the trust, and ultimately wind up the trust

Holding the trustee board to account is the most important role that members play. The members will do this in a hands-off manner, through monitoring the work of the trust board. This is done by:

- Hearing directly from the board of trustees once a year at the AGM or General Meeting, verbally receiving information and updates on progress made and plans going forward.
- Receiving the trust's Annual audited accounts and annual report
- Staying informed about how the board is performing
- Having an awareness of when they may need to exercise their powers to ensure effective governance

What don't they do?

While members hold the trust board to account for the effective governance of the trust, the members themselves have a minimal role in the actual running of the trust. It is the trust board, not the members, who are the organisation's key decision makers

Members don't:

- Have voting rights at trust board meetings
- Sit on executive leaders' performance review panels
- Contribute to specific decisions in relation to the trusts' business
- Have legal responsibility for conducting the business of the academy trust - this sits with the board of trustees

Liability

Members have a limited liability of up to £10 in the case that the academy trust is wound up. This liability applies to current members, and those who have been a member within a year of the trust being wound up

