



### **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 900 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. 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.

### **About the Every Child Every Day Academy Trust**

Founded in 2016 as a federation between Grey Court School (Richmond) and The Hollyfield School (Kingston upon Thames), Every Child, Every Day is a small trust with big ambitions for its young people and community. In 2018 Chessington School (Kingston upon Thames) became an associate member and in 2021 became an academy under the trust. We now serve over 3000 young people and nearly 400 employees across three sites. You will have gathered from our name that we are clear of our moral purpose; to ensure that every child in our school gets the very best education to ensure the widest of life opportunities. Our schools are mixed, comprehensive, non-selective and highly inclusive. The trust aims for collaboration to allow it to build on each school's strengths, ultimately offering the greatest impact on the broader trust community. We have one Ofsted rated outstanding school, and two schools rated as good.

As three-school academy trust operating in Kingston and Richmond Upon Thames, the Every Child, Every Day Trust (ECED) seeks to recruit trustees possessing demonstrable skills in the legal, financial and human resources professions as it strives to deliver the best education for 'every child, every day'. Board meetings are currently on line and a mixed-economy of meetings in person and online will be the diet moving forward after the pandemic.



### Plans for the future

The key challenges over the next 12-24 months include:

- Efficacy – centralised services that ensure value for money and enable leaders to focus on education and safeguarding; thus ensuring that excellent student experiences are better and more efficiently delivered.
- Post-Covid-19 recovery .
- Curriculum - development of a digital curriculum through a blended learning strategy to ensure inclusion across all phases.
- Growth – expansion with Chessington becoming full member and move toward an 'attractive' model for expansion locally.
- Equity – ensuring that the gap for outcomes of disadvantaged students against the national mean in each school is eliminated or significantly narrowed.

### Trust ethos and values

Every Child, Every Day's vision is to deliver the very best educational experiences for every child every day in all of our schools. This principle of inclusivity and equity underpins every action, from recruitment of staff through to the deployment of resources. 'The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members' (Gandhi) - Our trust lives by this statement and we hold ourselves to this bar in all elements of our accountability. We serve all of our community and are proud to do so. 'every child' also means we expect our students all to make rapid progress, be that to get them on to an apprenticeship or into Oxbridge, and we are proud of our success at these myriad levels. A family of schools and not a 'MAT' – As a family of schools we operate slightly differently.

We have rigorous protocols, processes, strategic plans and accountability measures of course; however, the trust exists within a smaller family of schools with the experiences of the whole community at the centre of every move made. We have no ambition to be a huge multi academy trust spread over a wide geographical distance. When we grow it will be aligned with our values, our ethos and within our local community. We want hard working and happy members of our community. We will of course deliver efficiencies but school improvement and the experiences of our young people will always be our prime objective.



## Role summary

- **Trustee/Non-Executive Director**

Trustees, or non-executive directors, are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust. The core functions of their role are: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding executive leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of a charitable company funded by the public purse.

The board of trustees manages the business of the academy trust and may Exercise all the powers of the trust in compliance with its charitable objects, company and charity law.

In the interests of safeguarding and in accordance with DfE requirements, all Trustee appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check.

- **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
- Leadership

A competency framework for governance (DfE) 2017 details the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for effective governance The trust seeks a skilled, knowledgeable and experienced professional to bring a depth of understanding and awareness to its board operations. Ideally with a proven Record operating at a multi-site organisation with budgetary responsibility, the individual will be comfortable challenging the executive and holding senior leaders to account. The skill set outlined would be most welcomed, but ECED is keen to hear from anyone with a passion and commitment to education, and the willingness/capacity to help drive an ambitious strategy. The board also wishes to ensure it represents the diverse communities that it serves.



- **Essential**
  - Finance
  - Legal
  - HR
  - Change management
  
- **Desirable**
  - Branding/ marketing
  - Corporate governance
  - Growth management
  - Education experience
  
- **Time commitment:**

Seven hours /month minimum. Three board meetings and one Members General Meeting per year, with one Committee membership in addition, with three meetings per year.

Meetings are held online using Google meet and also on site at the trust's schools on a rolling basis.

### **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) .