



Become a trustee of Governors for Schools to improve education in England

Overview

Governors for Schools (GfS) is an education charity (Charity no. 1078330) that connects skilled and committed professionals with schools and academies who need governors and trustees. We exist to improve education outcomes for England's children, and we know that a critical part of strong school performance is highly effective governance. By finding, nurturing and supporting a diverse and talented network of governors, we help to drive systematic change in how schools are run. We have placed over 10,000 governors in the last 5 years.

We have excellent relationships with a wide range of businesses (eg Lloyds Bank, Allen & Overy, and PWC) and universities (eg University of Manchester), giving access to highly skilled people, and we match these skills to those wanted by schools. We also offer high quality e-learning and monthly webinars to support governors to be effective.

GfS was founded as "School Governor One Stop Shop" in 1999, funded as a pilot project by the Department for Education. GfS is now an independent charity which is funded by corporate support and major donors. The charity's annual budget is close to £1m, with a team of 20. Most of the team are based in central London and 2 are located in regions of England.

Our Ambition:

Every school in England has excellent governance which drives improved educational outcomes for all children & young people

Purpose:

Provide excellent recruitment, placement & training services for skilled and committed people to be highly effective governors and trustees of schools and MATs in England, in partnership with business

Values: Excellence
Integrity
Collaboration
Pioneering

Further Information about our team, trustees, partners and supporters, along with our latest impact report can be found on our website: www.governorsforschools.org.uk

Who we are looking for

We are looking for 2 or 3 new trustees to join the board after two long-standing trustees stepped down in 2018. Trustees are not involved in running the day to day operations, but may become involved in specific projects or aspects of the charity's work.

We would like our new trustees to bring strong commercial experience, in particular in PR & Marketing. Fundraising is another skill we are looking for. We are also looking for one or more of these trustees to be based in the Northern Powerhouse region, with strong regional business networks.



Diversity makes a board as effective as it can be, with different backgrounds and opinions providing debate, challenge and new perspectives. We would like to increase the diversity of trustees and therefore particularly welcome applications from women, people from ethnic minorities, younger people, and people with disabilities.

As well as looking at how your skills, experience and knowledge can support Governors for Schools' ambition, we will also be looking for the following qualities:

- a commitment to the mission of Governors for Schools;
- an ability to meet the time requirement;
- integrity;
- strategic vision;
- good, independent judgement;
- an ability to think creatively;
- a willingness to speak your mind and an ability to respect other people's opinions;
- an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- an ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of GfS.

The commitment

Trustees are appointed for a term of 3 years, and can be reappointed twice, to a maximum of 9 years. Each new trustee is appointed by a vote of the existing trustees during a board meeting.

Board meetings are held in London quarterly, generally April, July, October and February, usually 3 - 5pm on a weekday. There is a strategy / planning away day held annually. You may be asked to get involved in specific projects or areas of the business to give advice or make introductions as appropriate.

The role is voluntary but reasonable out of pocket expenses will be covered. The cost of travel to London from the north for board meetings will be paid by GfS; it is also possible to attend board meetings via conference call or Skype if needed.

Induction and support

Trustees will be introduced to GfS by spending time with CEO and the Chair, visiting the office to meet the senior leadership team, as well as receiving the current business plan and past board papers.

The appointments process

Please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the role and what you bring to GfS to Louise Cooper, CEO, louise.cooper@governorsforschools.org.uk, by Thursday 23rd May.

We will arrange interviews with current trustees in June, in central London, with a view to new trustees coming to their first board meeting in July.

If you would like to find out more about GfS and the role before applying, please contact Linda Wilding, Chair, on lindawilding@btinternet.com.