



November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Re. Greensand Multi Academy Trust – Recruitment for Two New Members

As you may be aware, your child's school is part of Greensand Multi Academy Trust. This is a locally based trust currently consisting of nine schools in Reigate, Redhill, Crawley, Horley and Kingswood whose primary goal is to **help children step into their greatness**.

In working towards this goal, we have a network of dedicated volunteers who support the schools and trust in different capacities. These include Governors and Trustees, which are terms which may be familiar to you. In addition to these roles, we also have a **Board of Members**. Members in a trust are akin to shareholders of a company; they are the trust's guardians, and hold Trustees to account, assuring themselves that Trustees are acting in accordance with the trust's charitable objective "to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom".

We are currently recruiting for two new Members to join the Greensand team. This is an exciting time to be joining the trust, as we build upon the new relationships with the three schools who have joined our trust in the last 6 months, and continue with further growth in the new year. Read on to see if this might be the right voluntary opportunity for you.

What skills does a Member need?

Anyone considering the role of a Member should have excellent communication and team work skills, be confident in asking effective and challenging questions of trust leaders, and have great problem solving and analytical skills. Previous involvement in education is not essential or even necessary; experience in any field in which these skills have been cultivated is welcome, including people with backgrounds in data and risk management, auditing, finance, marketing, law, leadership, HR, IT and business. Previous experience in running and/or chairing meetings would also be beneficial.

What is the time commitment?

The role of Members is one of oversight; the phrase “eyes on, hands off” is often used to show this. As a result, the time commitment required of a Member is much less than that of a Governor or Trustee, for example, although a Member’s role is no less important. Members are asked to attend three meetings per year (roughly 2 hours each) which usually take place at Reigate School; meetings require some preparation in advance, primarily reading papers (which are provided) and considering questions to be asked of the CEO, Chair of Trustees and other Trustees. There is also an AGM and three trust-wide training events per year.

What else should I know?

Successful applicants would be required to have an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check, and a check under section 128 of the Education & Skills Act 2008 (which covers people who are barred from being involved in the management of schools). Applicants do not need to be parents or guardians within the trust, so please pass this letter on to anyone you know who may be interested in this opportunity.

The Members’ role is both rewarding for individuals and extremely valuable to the local community. If you would like to know more about becoming a Member for Greensand, or any other volunteering opportunities within the Greensand community, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Maria Gorham

Lead Governance Professional, Greensand Multi Academy Trust

m.gorham@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk