

Creating a
better future
for the next generation

Non-executive director roles in education



“Business expertise is transferable and it is so rewarding to give a little time and lots of experience and see that help in the flourishing of an academy that helps so many.”

Mark Bower-Dyke, Chairman Be Wiser Group

**Academy
Ambassadors**

A NEW SCHOOLS NETWORK PROGRAMME

Working together *for a better future*

By working together, inspirational educationalists and talented business leaders can provide a better future for the next generation.

Improving the life chances of young people, particularly the disadvantaged, is critical to the **UK's social and economic success.**



Over **750,000** children
are still taught in academies
which are less than Good¹



We are the
5th
largest economy
in the world



...but our system ranks in the
twenties
when judged on the educational
performance of our 15-year-olds²



The objective of the academies programme is to change education in England for the better by raising standards. As multi-academy trusts (MATs) grow and develop in pursuit of this objective, they face significant challenges. The skills and experience of business leaders can help these trusts and their pupils succeed.

New Schools Network's Academy Ambassadors Programme provides a free, bespoke service matching business people and professionals with academy trusts looking to strengthen their board. Since 2013, the Programme has introduced over 1,800 business people and professionals to trust boards.

¹ Ofsted State-funded school inspections and outcomes: management information 2019.

² OECD PISA Excellence and Equity in Education, 2015.

Q & A

What are academies and academy trusts?

Academies are state schools that are funded directly by the government, rather than the local authority. Over 50% of children are now educated in an academy and the number of academies has expanded rapidly from 200 to over 8,500 since 2010, with two-thirds coming together to create academy trusts.

Academies aim to raise standards so that children are better prepared for all stages of life. Each trust has a board that includes non-executive directors (NEDs) from outside education.

Why become a non-executive in education?



Give back to your community



Professional and leadership development



Empower the next generation



“Corporate Britain has a huge role to play in education and particularly in bringing leadership skills and experience to academy trusts. I encourage academy trusts and business leaders to come together through the Academy Ambassadors Programme”

Sir Paul Marshall, Founder of Marshall Wace LLP and Chair of Ark Schools

What does an academy trust board do?

Non-executive directors lead strategy development and then hold the executive to account for delivery of the business plan. Academy trust boards face the same challenges as any business board: defining a compelling vision and strategy; operating within financial constraints and creating a strong and effective governance structure.

What skills are required?



Auditing

Review the accounts/statements from CFO. Offer challenge as to how/where money is spent



Finance

Ensure best value by challenging leaders over spending decisions and if budgets are aligned to priorities



Branding and Marketing

Offer advice on messaging to stakeholder via challenge to execs



Human Resources

Challenge the execs on HR policies, Performance Management, recruitment, retention, well-being



CEO and General Management

Challenge expansion plans and whether systems are robust depending on complexity of organisation



IT / Technology

Challenge leaders on organisation- wide integration, efficiency and procurement



Change / Growth Management

Offer challenge for growth and transformation



Legal and Compliance

Challenge leaders over matters of due diligence and the way they are handling complex personnel cases or contracts they are minded to enter into



Corporate Governance

Advise on structures for more efficient/prudent operation/management



Property and Real Estate

Offer challenge to leaders in relation to how the trust manages its property portfolio including its use of capital development funding and facilities management



Entrepreneur / Founder

Challenging for innovation and advising on when systems need to change as trust develops/moves to a new phase



Risk

Offer challenge to executive as to how effectively they manage the range of risks as well as the trust's risk register

Will I make a difference?

Non-executive directors have influence and impact in academies. Their authority is backed by the devolved funding, accountability and control inherent within the academies' organisational structure.

“Educating the next generation is an invaluable element in all our futures. It is therefore a great honour to be given the opportunity to make a difference to our children’s future and ensure we provide an education where all individuals can reach their potential.”

Helen Mannion, Head of Business Intelligence at Giffgaff

What is the feedback from organisations already involved?

Academy trust non-executive directors say that their trust role provides intellectual challenge and develops their leadership capability. High-calibre leaders are attracted to the role and nine in ten would recommend it to others.³ Organisations already involved include BT, PwC, Lloyds Banking Group and Rolls Royce. The programme is endorsed by the Institute of Directors (IoD) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Some of the organisations already involved:



Finding the right board role for you

You can get involved by applying for a specific board opportunity or by registering your interest in joining our pool of candidates.

One-to-one support from an expert governance advisor to match you to the right role.

Find the latest board opportunities at: academyambassadors.org

You can find out more by emailing your CV / LinkedIn profile to

academyambassadors@newschoolsnetwork.org

The small print:

- Non-executive directors usually contribute between **six and twelve hours per month** in board meetings and preparation.
- Most appointments are made for a term of **three to four years**. However the length of your term will be agreed on appointment.
- Board positions recruited via the Academy Ambassadors Programme are **pro-bono** and are not remunerated.
- All candidates working with the Academy Ambassadors Programme are expected to meet the standards of conduct detailed in the DfE Model Articles of Association and the Nolan Principles of Public Life.
- For more information and terms and conditions go to academyambassadors.org

**New
Schools
Network**

**Academy
Ambassadors**
A NEW SCHOOLS NETWORK PROGRAMME



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for Education

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