

Our Community Multi Academy Trust (OCMAT)

Our Community Multi Academy Trust in Kent offers an exciting opportunity for a new Trustee to join them following our successful merger and expansion from 4 to 10 primary schools. The Trust board seeks a non-executive director with expertise in Marketing/Branding or Property/Estate Management to support the development of a new 5-year strategy. Board meetings are held virtually or in Sittingbourne, ME9 0RL, when safe to do so.

About the Trust

Our Community Multi Academy Trust (OCMAT) was originally established on 1 August 2017 as The Potential in Everyone Academy Trust (PIEAT) starting with four schools based in Swale and increasing to ten schools as a result of the merger in June 2021. There are 1700 pupils on roll, 280 staff and they are operating with a budget of £10m. The Trust aims to promote excellence across all its schools.

On the 1 June 2021 we changed our name to Our Community Multi Academy Trust when six new schools successfully merged with us. The merger has presented challenges with one of the new schools rated as Inadequate, another rated as Requires Improvement (RI), and two of the new small rural schools having current falling rolls. The Trust remains a Church Majority Trust.

There are pockets of deprivation within our communities and the Trust has an increased number of children with special education needs attending the schools and a growing number of children with English as a second language. There is also a Speech and Language Unit attached to two of the schools, which supports children from reception to transition at age eleven. Key Stage 2 results were above or in line with national and the local authority average for reading, writing and mathematics, also with more children achieving greater depth in these subjects' pre-pandemic.

OCMAT encourages the sharing of best practice in teaching and learning between schools and promotes mutual accountability across all its schools. The Trust provides immediate support and intervention where required to raise standards in schools and continuous improvements in performance across the Trust.

The Trust played a key role in setting up the Kent MAT Association, formed in 2018/ 2019, where a number of CEO's have come together to further develop and support our MAT community in Kent, Medway, Bromley and Greenwich. OCMAT plans for continued growth at a measured and sustainable rate and anticipates, as the Trust grows, it will develop regional clusters or 'hubs', supported by regional board structures.

Plans for the future.

1. **Trust Future Growth** – We are now focusing on growing the Trust by talking to schools that are interested in joining. We are producing a Trust Prospectus / Brochure and looking for ways to utilize our central team to support other schools and Trusts. We will be setting out our future growth plan for the next five years through our Trust Strategic Plan.
2. **Estate Infrastructure** – The Trusts aim to improve the school estate infrastructure by successfully accessing capital available from the Government to rejuvenate our school estates, whilst maintaining a positive net revenue position. There are new housing developments around Sittingbourne, Teynham, Faversham and Dymchurch which will provide the opportunity to fill any vacant places. The development in Sittingbourne will also come with the potential opportunity to bid for a brand-new free school.

3. **School Improvement** – Within the next 24 months the Trust will be supporting one Inadequate and three RI schools with the aim of securing a ‘Good’ or better judgement. The Trust will continue to invest in supporting school improvement and ensure the resources and assets of the Trust are effectively deployed and the Trust maintains a balanced budget overall.

The Trust will continue to develop and grow in future years commencing 2023/2024, with a focus on increasing the number of their primary schools, to implement a hub / bespoke support network and to work with / join up with secondary schools that their children transfer to.

Trust Vision

We believe that every part of the body is valuable and integral to the whole (1 Corinthians 12: 14-16). Therefore, we will create a community of schools that, whilst being diverse and unique in their own context, will ensure every child receives the highest quality educational experiences and pastoral support.

At the heart of our Trust’s vision is a belief in educational excellence, the belief that Our Community Multi Academy Trust is called to serve pupils, staff, families, and the local community by providing places where children develop and thrive academically, socially, culturally, and spiritually in the safest environments possible.

We will maintain and strengthen a shared culture which requires every member of our community, whatever their role, staff or pupil, governor, or parent, to take responsibility for their position and be accountable for what they achieve. We will be driven by a desire to make a positive impact on the lives of all children. This shared community culture will respect, uphold, and complement each school’s distinctive ethos and character.

Belonging to Our Community Multi Academy Trust offers greater opportunities for influence than single schools can achieve. Working together the Trust aims to be greater than the sum of its constituent schools. At the same time, we recognise the unique character of each of our schools and the important role they play with their local community. We will work tirelessly to maintain each school’s status within their locality and strengthen their character and reputation.

Trust Values and Ethos

- Compassion
- Collaboration
- Community

As the old African proverb posits, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ we believe that it takes an entire educational community to prepare every child to be **compassionate**, model citizens of tomorrow.

We want all our children, parents, staff, and governors to recognise and celebrate their own role in being part of a wide range of **communities**: school community, a Trust community, a local community, a church community, a national community, and a global community.

Children will be at the front and centre of Our Community Multi Academy Trust. Every decision carefully taken will have the child’s best interests at its heart. We commit to work **collaboratively** to forge fruitful links within our communities to provide a wide range of enhanced educational experiences and ambitious curriculum for every child.

Together we will be the ultimate champion for our children.

Role summary

Number of positions advertised: 2

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 seven principles of public life set out by Lord Nolan: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

The Competency Framework for Governance (DfE) 2017 details the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for effective governance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583733/Competency_framework_for_governance .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583733/Competency_framework_for_governance.pdf)

The strategic expertise required for this role includes:

Essential (*due to multiple roles, candidates may be accepted who possess one or more of the skills below*)

- Branding/ Marketing
- Real estate/ Property

Desirable

- Growth/Change Management
- Entrepreneur/Founder
- HR
- H&S
- Risk

The Trust is looking for the following skills/attributes:

- Interpersonal, developing effective relationships
- Sound judgement and Integrity
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of business when required
- Strategic vision
- Problem solving
- Creative thinking

Time commitment

6 hours /month minimum. 5 board meeting per annum plus one sub-committee which meets 3x p/a. Audit, Finance and Staffing Committee meets 6x p/a. Meetings are typically held 8.30am to 10.30am.

Location of board meetings and Trust website

Our Trust Offices are based at:

Lynsted and Norton Primary School

Lynsted Lane

Lynsted

Sittingbourne

Kent

ME9 0RL

www.ocmat.org.uk

Most of our Trust meetings start at 8.30am and take place on Microsoft Teams. All papers are shared in advance on a 365 Share point. We also hold an annual Director's Strategic Day in person where we revisit our vision, values and ethos and set our key priorities for the year ahead.

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.

Please note candidates should live within reasonable travelling distance of the Trust and/or have a link with the region. For more information, please in the first instance email Mrs Julie Duplock, Clerk to Governors at clerk@ocmat.org.uk.