



The Barton Court Academy Trust seeks to appoint a new non-executive Director/Trustee to join an established Board of Directors to provide additional capacity as the Trust grows in size.

The Trust

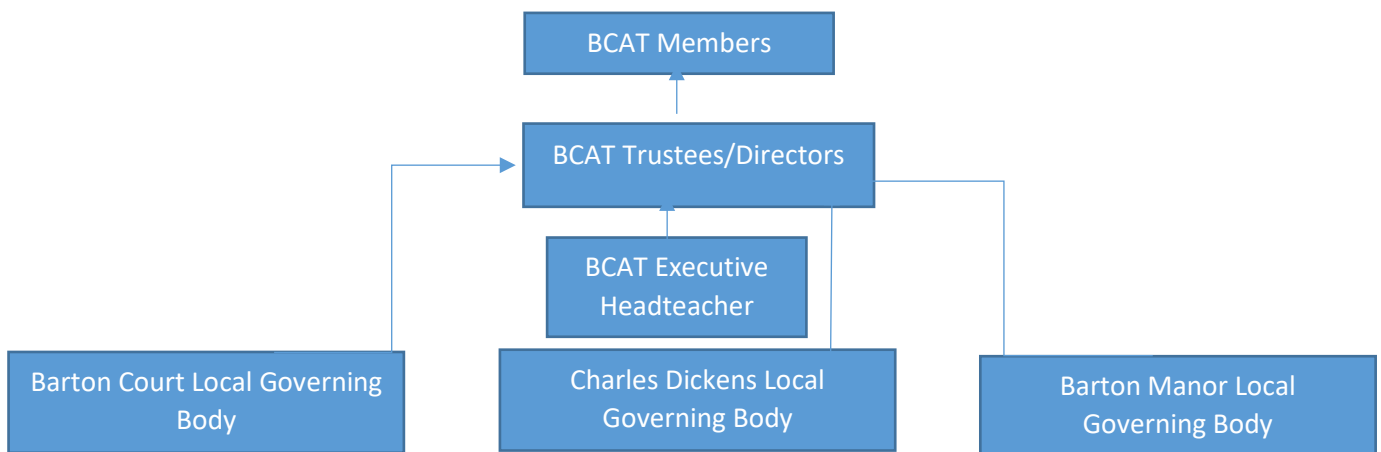
Barton Court Academy Trust (BCAT) is a multi-academy Trust which was established in 2017.

It currently consists of three secondary schools: Barton Court Grammar School, an 11-18yrs, mixed selective school in the heart of Canterbury, rated “Good” with many outstanding features by Ofsted in February 2020, and The Charles Dickens School, an 11-16yrs mixed non-selective school in Broadstairs, which came out of special measures and is rated “Requires Improvement” by Ofsted in June 2019 and is a rapidly improving school. This school we believe is now good with outstanding for leadership and management.

The Trust opened Barton Manor School, a brand new Free School, in September 2022 to Year 7. This school will grow over time when a new Year 7 cohort joins each year. Over time, it will be an 11 – 18 yrs non-selective mixed school with a joint Sixth Form with Barton Court Grammar School.

The diagram below shows the governance relationships within the Trust:

The Director/Governance Structure of Barton Court Academy Trust (BCAT)



Plans for the Future

BCAT is currently in the process of opening a non-selective, 11- 18 yrs co-educational Free School (Barton Manor School) on an adjacent site to Barton Court Grammar School in the heart of Canterbury. This school will offer high quality educational provision to students who do not pass the Kent 11+ test. A joint Sixth Form with Barton Court Grammar School is planned with the grammar school offering excellence in academic post -16 courses and the Free school excellence in vocational post-16 courses.

Our key challenges will be ensuring that this new school opens successfully; that there is significant and sustained support and challenge for The Charles Dickens School, our sponsored secondary academy, whilst ensuring there is rapid school improvement. Our aim is for the school to achieve at least a “Good” rating from Ofsted in the next visit. To maintain the high standards and high quality education provision at Barton Court Grammar School. BCAT has extended its leadership team in Barton Court for phase one of expansion but will need to recruit and retain additional senior leaders for future expansion of the trust including the Free School. This would include an executive layer of school leaders.

Trust Values and Ethos

BCAT has academic excellence and high aspiration at the heart of its vision and ethos. Its lead school, Barton Court Grammar School has a track record of academic excellence and innovation. Barton Court has a language specialism and has promoted internationalism and Global Citizenship as essential values in equipping our children for 21st century working and living. Barton Court is also an accredited Advanced Thinking School with Exeter University and BCAT promotes cognitive tools throughout its schools to improve teaching, learning and robust self-assessment.

Role Summary

The Trust board is the decision-making body of the academy trust and is accountable and responsible for the academy (or all the academies equally) in the academy trust. The academy trust will also be the employer of any central staff and those within its academies. Non-executive Directors/Trustees are both charity trustees and company directors of the Academy Trust; the role is to hold to account the executive and senior leadership team. The Board of Directors manages the business of the Academy Trust and may exercise all the powers of the Trust. Directors ensure compliance with the Trust's charitable objects and with company and charity law.

As set out in the Governance Handbook, all Trust Boards have 3 core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding Executive Leaders to account for educational performance of the school(s) its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school(s) and making sure that money is well spent

Person specification

We require a Director/Trustee to join our already established and experienced Board of Directors to provide additional capacity as the Trust grows in size. We require a Director/Trustee to Chair our Finance committee. Potential candidates will be experienced accountants/auditors capable of offering support, scrutiny and challenge to the Trust Finance Manager and the executive leadership team.

In addition, we seek someone who can offer additional experience and expertise, from outside the educational setting, who can also provide additional challenge and support from a different perspective.

Expectations of a Director/Trustee

The role of Director/Trustee is a voluntary one, requiring a high degree of commitment and confidentiality.

It is expected that Trustees will be able to participate fully in the work of the Trust Board and where possible in the life of each school in the Trust. It is envisaged that Trustee would need to set aside an average of 8 -10 hours a month in order to fulfil the following expectations:

- Attending 6 Director meetings and 1 AGM per year which are face to face and held at Barton Court Grammar School. In addition you will attend various sub-committees such as 3 Finance Meetings and 3 Audit and Risk Meetings which are held virtually. Each meeting lasts for about 1.5 - 2 hours and takes place on a weekday evening, usually 2 meetings are held consecutively in the evening, typically from 5pm - 8pm. There will be a number of documents to review prior to the meetings.

- Undertaking 2-3 monitoring visits per academic year – these take place during the school day and provide an opportunity to develop the Link Director role: this involves building a relationship with the lead member of staff for the area you are linked with and monitoring procedures and performance relating to it. A written report is required following each visit and help is available for new governors so that the level of information recorded is clear.
- Attending some of the Local Governing Body Meetings on a rota with other Directors.
- Attend briefings/training events run by KCC – these take place approximately 3 times a year.
- Participating in Director/Governor professional development events/training which includes, but not exclusive to: an induction programme run by the NGA, annual online training in Safeguarding, Prevent and GDPR in addition to other training events as required to fulfill the role and skill set requirements of the Board.
- Attending various school events across the year.

Location of Board Meetings and Trust Website

Board meetings are almost always held in Canterbury at Barton Court Grammar School.

<http://www.bartoncourtacademytrust.org/>

Appointment and Term of Office

Directors/Trustees are appointed for a period of 4 years by the BCAT Trustees. New trustees will be required to declare that they meet certain eligibility criteria including restrictions relating to bankruptcy and convictions for an offence.

On appointment and annually, Trustees are required to:

- Sign a Declaration of Interests to record all business and relevant interests, financial or otherwise, which they and their spouse or partner, children, parents and any other close relatives may have;
- Undertake a full induction programme; complete online training in Safeguarding, Prevent and any other course that may be required;
- Complete an enhanced DBS check (as this position will give access to children) and names will be checked against the list of people banned or with restrictions imposed on them from working in Schools with children and young people.

Background on academy trusts

Academy schools, which are charities run independently of local authority control, now account for 71% of secondary schools and 26% 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 980 multi academy trusts of 2+ 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.

“Academy boards must be ambitious for all children and young people and infused with a passion for education and a commitment to continuous school improvement that enables the best possible outcomes. Governance must be grounded in reality as defined by both high-quality objective data and a full understanding of the views and needs of pupils/students, staff, parents, carers and local communities. It should be driven by inquisitive, independent minds and through conversations focused on the key strategic issues which are conducted with humility, good judgement, resilience and determination.” Source: Governance Handbook, Department for Education (2017)

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.

What to do next.....

If you feel that the role of Trustee is one that you could contribute to, then please provide a CV and brief personal statement about your skills and reasons for applying. This should be emailed to clerk@bartoncourt.org for the attention of the Chair of the Trust.

If you would like to know more about the role or would like to speak to someone who is already serving as a Trustee, then please contact the Clerk (clerk@bartoncourt.org) who will be pleased to help you.