



CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Hitchin Boys' School, Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Job Reference	CoT
Location	Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1JB
Contract Type	N/A
Contract Term	Annually by election; full term of office: 6 years
Salary	This is a voluntary role
Closing Date	01 December 2023
Start Date	Spring 2024
Positions Available	1

About this role

Hitchin Boys' School (HBS) was founded in 1632. The School became an Academy in 2013, and remains a Single Academy Trust. The non-selective boys' school has been expanding since 2018 and currently has 1308 pupils on roll, of whom 258 are in the sixth form. HBS is part of the sixth-form consortium of three secondary schools in Hitchin. Hitchin Boys' School was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in 2016, and retained the Outstanding judgement under the new inspection arrangements in 2021.

HBS governance structure comprises two boards: the Board of Trustees (around 21 members, trustees also acting as de facto governors and directors) and the Board of Academy Trust Members (seven members), which maintains oversight of the Board of Trustees. The School completed a successful external review of governance in April 2023. We are now looking for our next Chair of Trustees to lead the Board of Trustees and to work with the Board of Academy Trust Members, the Senior Leadership Team and other members of the school community to maintain and develop further the outstanding work of the school. You will build a strong professional relationship with the Headteacher, providing both support and challenge, and maintain regular formal and informal communication as required.

The current Chair of Trustees has been in post for five years and will be stepping down during the Spring term 2024. A new Headteacher will be in post from January 2024.

We are now looking for a new Chair of Trustees, ideally someone with extensive experience of governance and board leadership. Experience in an educational context would be advantageous, as would experience of working within an Academy structure. However, experience of chairing a Board in the business or charity sectors could also be of interest.

You should be an excellent communicator, good team player, and have strong inter-personal and time-management skills. You will also need to demonstrate good facility with different online platforms and means of electronic communication.

The time commitment is expected to be around two to three days per month, but in some months may exceed this. You will be involved in regular meetings of the Full Governing Board, the Chairs' Steering Group and possibly one of the Board's sub-committees. All main meetings are clerked by a governance professional. On an annual or less regular basis, you will also be a member of committees dealing with admissions, pay and performance, and the annual appraisal of the Headteacher. You will be an ex-officio member of the Board of Academy Trust Members. The school works closely with the local community in Hitchin and North Hertfordshire. The Chair of Trustees also acts as a governor of the Hitchin Educational Foundation, which meets three times per year.

Training and continuous professional development for all Trustees is provided through arrangements with HfL Education, the National Governance Association (Virtual College), and Governors for Schools.

We welcome applications from interested parties of all backgrounds. All applicants will be subject to the necessary DBS checks required by the School, plus the additional checks required by the Secretary of State for Education for all Chairs of Academy Trusts.

If you would like to arrange an informal conversation with the current Chair of Trustees, please email chair@hitchinboys.co.uk.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter setting out how your experience, knowledge and skills might meet the requirements of the role to chair@hitchinboys.co.uk.