



MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A MEMBER

Meadowhead School
Academy Trust is
looking to appoint
volunteers to join the
Trust as Members



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Meadowhead School and Sixth Form is a large comprehensive school that serves communities in the south and south-west of the city of Sheffield as well as North Derbyshire. The school currently has nearly 2000 students on roll. Our size – as the largest school in Sheffield – brings many benefits including the diversity of our curriculum and our very expansive enrichment programme. At Meadowhead, our vision is to make a difference to the lives of our young people and this mission runs through the heart of the school's life.

The school has been a convertor academy (Single Academy Trust) since 2011. This means that the school's board of trustees is responsible for the direction of the school and all decisions are taken locally in the best interests of Meadowhead families. All funding is invested directly into the education the school offers.





THE MEADOWHEAD VISION

At Meadowhead our vision is to make a difference to the lives of our young people. Through excellence and continual improvement, we aim to be the best we can possibly be for our current and future students. We are determined that all our students achieve their full potential and leave us as confident, compassionate and articulate individuals to grow and prosper in the 21st century.

We work in partnership with others to equip students with the skills, attitudes and qualifications needed to lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible adults. Through a skilfully planned curriculum, enrichment experiences, high standards in teaching and pastoral care we fully prepare our students for entrance to further and higher education, high quality employment and the future careers of their choice.

Our ambition is to develop and nurture young people to become well-rounded individuals with the characteristics to contribute fully to society with a strong sense of civic responsibility. We want to ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to influence change and to improve their own lives, their local community and the planet. We aim to inspire young people to live sustainable lives and develop the green skills to tackle both the causes and the impact of climate change resulting in better futures for all.

How do we expect students to 'Make a Difference'?

Aim High - give your best every day

Show Respect - value others and the environment

No Excuses - find solutions to overcome challenges

Invest to Achieve - make the most of all opportunities

Care - show kindness to others

Be Resilient - do not opt out



ABOUT THE ROLE

Members have an essential role in holding the board of trustees to account and overseeing the governance of the Trust.

Members are the guardians of governance in the Trust and sit at the top of the governance structure. Their primary role is to assess if the board of trustees is performing its duties well and that the Trust's charitable objects are being fulfilled.

The core functions of Members are:

- To ensure the Trust is meeting its charitable objectives by holding trustees to account and ensuring effective governance.
- To receive the annual report and accounts from trustees
- To appoint and remove trustees from the trust board
- To appoint the Trust's auditors
- To retain responsibility for the Trust's Articles of Association

A comprehensive guide about the role of a Member can be accessed here:

[Academy Trusts: The Role of Members](#)

"I've been a trustee at Meadowhead since 2013. I initially felt very out of my depth and really wasn't sure what value I could add, but I enjoyed learning about governance and doing my bit to support my children's school. Over the years I've grown in confidence and continue to enjoy the role even though my children have long since left. I feel valued and respected at Meadowhead and I know I help to create good outcomes for our community. I'd encourage anyone who is interested in governance and/or our school to get involved."

Lisa, Vice-Chair of Trustees



At Meadowhead, we make a difference



ELIGIBILITY AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Desirable Experience:

- Governance (particularly in the charity/education sector)
- Education

Members will be offered initial and ongoing training and supported through an induction period.

Members should be committed to:

- The success of the trust
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Equal opportunities and diversity
- Understanding the difference between the role of Members and Trustees

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Term of Office

Members will be appointed for a period of 4 years in the first instance.

Meetings

Members are required to attend the Annual General Meeting which is usually held in December and lasts approximately one hour.

Usually, and unless there is a problem with governance, there is no need for Members to meet more regularly than once per year; Members are not expected to attend meetings of the trust board or committees.

Additional meetings for Members may be convened by the Governance Professional if required, and Members may wish to come along to selected school events.

Financial

Expenses (including travel and childcare) incurred by Members in the course of their duties can be reimbursed upon proof of expenditure.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying for the role, complete the application form:

Member Application Form

The application process will involve obtaining references and an informal interview process (either virtually or in person) with our current Members and Chair of Trustees. Successful applicants will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS check, which will be funded by the school.

If you have any questions about the role or the school, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Gillott using the email address above.

If you would prefer to receive a Word version of the form or a paper form please contact Mrs S Gillott (Governance Professional) via gillotts@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

If you require any support with the application process, including submitting a video application instead of a written statement, or have any other accessibility needs, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gillott at the school. We are happy to provide assistance to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to apply.

“Being a trustee means you can understand the inner workings of the school and have a direct and positive impact on the education of young people, whether you have a child in the school or not. If you have an interest in shaping the education of young people at Meadowhead School I would encourage you to apply. The Governing Body works very effectively together and collaborates strongly with, and holds to account, the leadership of the school to benefit the lives of students.”

Andy, Vice-Chair of Trustees



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