

CAMBRIDGE MERIDIAN ACADEMIES TRUST (CMAT)

CMAT was formed in 2011 with a clear vision to provide high quality education for all. There are currently 8 academies within their growing multi-academy trust. They are recruiting non-executives that can assist the Trust in its time of growth. **Board meetings are usually held at Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire CB24 4RS. However, this could be subject to change in the future and therefore could be held at any of the Academies in the trust.**

ABOUT THE TRUST

The Trust started as Cambridge Meridian Education Trust (CMET) which was incorporated in March 2009 and was founded by the governors and trustees of an outstandingly successful and innovative school, Swavesey Village College. In March 2011, the Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) was formed. This enabled Swavesey Village College to convert to academy status, sponsor other academies and help spread good education practice.

Since becoming a multi-academy trust, CMAT has successfully sponsored 7 schools. An example is Sawtry Village Academy which was sponsored by CMAT in 2015 and has had its 'Special Measures' status removed by Ofsted. The "core trust" back room functions have grown considerably.

TRUST ETHOS & VALUE

Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) values the success of every child and places the sharing of excellent education practice at the core of the Trust's way of working. The young adults who leave the Trust's care are prepared for the next stage of their education and ready and confident to move forward in life.

The Trust is committed to improving the quality of education and life in the county of Cambridgeshire, and its immediate surroundings. With this aim, the Trust operates from hubs in Cambridge and Peterborough and its staff, pupils and families are spread across the entire area from rural village to inner city estate.

The academies have common values and core operational systems, which are applied locally and adapted to individual context and needs. Each academy retains their own local governing bodies (now known as Academy Councils), identity and individuality.

CMAT's Values:

- Pursuit Of Excellence
- Value Our People
- Achievement For All
- High-Quality Learning Environment
- Extending The Boundaries Of Learning

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust has not set targets for growth, but instead has focused on organic growth driven by making decisions about each project. However, over time we may grow to being a trust of 10 secondary academies, 20 primary academies and a group of special/ P16 / educational service providers.

The trust is currently in negotiations for an additional primary school to join the family in 2019. CMAT is the approved sponsor of the Northstowe Secondary School (due to open in 2019), Northstowe Special School (2019), Corby Secondary Free School (2019) and Darwin Green Secondary Academy (2021). The Trust is especially keen, having taken on 5 schools with significant challenges, to encourage good or outstanding partners to join the Trust to provide more capacity. Growth will remain broadly within the Cambridge/Peterborough area.

ROLE SPECIFICATION

CMAT has a number of Committees to which it delegates certain functions at termly meetings. These include:

- Trust Policy and Scrutiny Finance Committee
- Trust Policy and Scrutiny Personnel Committee
- Trust Policy and Scrutiny Premises Committee

Each academy operated by CMAT has an Academy Council which is a committee of the Board of Trustees. Academy Councils operate by one of schemes of delegation depending upon the position of the academy and the strength of the AC. A system of “champions” operates to ensure strong links between local governance and leadership and the trust.

It is expected that Trustees will join at least one of the Committees referred to above and/or act as the Chair of one of the Academy Councils.

Trustees are also requested to become a “link trustee” with at least one academy and to have oversight of one “champion” area. The link role involves ensuring regular (at least half termly) contact with the Principal or Executive Principal and Academy Chair. The link trustee should aim to attend at least one Academy Council meeting per year to ensure that they are seen as accessible by the members.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

CORE COMPETENCIES

- CFO/ Finance
- Change management
- HR/Personnel

- Legal/ Compliance
- Real estate/ Property

TIME COMMITMENT

There are at least three meetings a year, one in each term plus two annual “Away Days” usually held in January and July of each year. Board meetings are normally held from 6.00pm until 9.00pm at Swavesey or one of the other CMAT academies.

CURRENT BOARD/NON-EXECUTIVES

The current trustees can be found online [here](#).

BACKGROUND ON ACADEMY TRUSTS

A recent report on the background and information on Academy Trusts can be found on the following website.

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeduc/204/204.pdf>

Academy schools, which are charities run independently of local authority control and the number is growing.

Many of these schools are grouped together as multi-academy trusts. 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.

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 don't need to have any specialist knowledge of education.

However, our recruitment drive at this time sees us looking for trustees with specific skills in the areas of Personnel, Estates, Secondary Education and Special Education Needs. The Trust schools cover several geographically close counties and we would particularly welcome representation from Peterborough, South Lincolnshire or the East Northamptonshire areas.

APPLICATIONS

If you are interesting in applying for the role of Trustee please send your application form and any enquiries to Suzanne Cooper, Governance and Compliance Manager at governance@cmatrust.net