



**The Park
Academies
Trust**

Application Information Pack

Local Governor

Dear prospective Local Governor,

I am delighted to introduce you to The Park Academies Trust – a family of schools united by our shared mission:

Inspiring Futures, Empowering People

This mission drives everything we do for our pupils, staff, and communities. We believe in the power of education to transform lives and are committed to working together with purpose, ambition, and care.

Our approach balances alignment and autonomy: we bring schools together where it adds value, while empowering leaders to make the best decisions for their individual communities. We foster a culture of continuous improvement, where staff feel supported, valued, and encouraged to grow through feedback and collaboration.

Our five-year strategy focuses on sustainable development and strong support for school leaders, enabling them to focus on delivering exceptional education every day. Through rich curricula and strong links to industry, our schools prepare pupils for successful futures – locally and beyond.

This strategy is built around three core pledges: Aspiration, Behaviours, and Cohesion. These guide every decision we make and ensure we stay true to our values and purpose.

At TPAT, we are committed to innovation, collaboration, and making a lasting difference. Our schools are places where both children and adults thrive.

As a Local Governor, you'll play a key role in supporting our leadership, holding us to account, and helping us deliver real impact for our communities. This is a meaningful opportunity to be part of a Trust that believes in the power of education to change lives.

Education is a fast paced environment, which balances strategic planning and reactive capability in order to maximise the impact of our resources as we serve our communities every day. We have two key guiding principles that shape our work as an organisation, 1) will it improve outcomes for pupils? 2) will it make us a happy healthy place to work? These ground our decision making and policy shaping to ensure we are financially stable in order to deliver exceptional education for all.

We welcome interest from anyone who is keen to use and develop their skills in a values driven organisation with social impact and improving the life changes of children at the heart of everything we do.

I welcome further enquiry and discussion about the important work we do, and how you can be part of the team that inspires futures, and empowers all our people.

Gemma Piper

Chief Executive Officer



WELCOME TO TPAT

Welcome to the TPAT Family of schools

Thank you for your interest in becoming a **Local Governor** within The Park Academies Trust.

We are delighted that you are considering this important role in supporting and shaping the future of one of our schools.

As Chair of Trustees, I have the privilege of working alongside a committed and skilled group of people who are passionate about ensuring that every child across our schools receives the highest quality education and the best possible start in life. I also see first hand the vital contribution that **Local Governors** make at each school—offering insight, oversight, and strong links with the community.

The Park Academies Trust is a growing family of schools located in and around Swindon. We believe that education should be inclusive, ambitious, and transformative — and that strong local governance is key to creating the right environment for pupils and staff to thrive.

We are currently looking to strengthen our **Local Governing Committees** by appointing individuals who bring experience in areas such as education, safeguarding, finance, human resources, estates management, or community engagement. Just as important are your values, your commitment to young people, and your willingness to learn and contribute.

As a Local Governor, you will play a key role in supporting and challenging school leaders, helping to ensure that each school within our Trust provides a safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment. You will help monitor progress, champion the voices of pupils, parents, and staff, and contribute to the school's strategic direction.

While the role is voluntary, it is **incredibly rewarding**, offering the opportunity to make a tangible difference in your community and positively impact the lives of children and young people.

We are also committed to increasing the **diversity of our Local Governing Committees**. We want our governance to reflect the communities we serve and to benefit from a wide range of perspectives, lived experiences, and professional backgrounds. We warmly encourage applications from individuals who may not have served in a governance role before — full support and training will be provided.

This recruitment pack includes more information about The Park Academies Trust, our values, and the responsibilities of Local Governors. If you would like an informal conversation before applying, please don't hesitate to contact our Governance Co-ordinator at: **lgc-enquiries@theparkacademiestrust.com**.

Thank you again for your interest in joining us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Catherine Dampney

Chair of Trustees



WELCOME TO GOVERNANCE

Key Documents

Are all available on our website, www.theparkacademiestrust.com, which includes:

[Articles of Association](#)

[Scheme of Delegation](#)

[Annual Report and Financial Statements to 31 August 2024](#)

Our Schools

The Park Academies Trust was formed in 2016 with the aim of improving education in Swindon and the surrounding areas. The Trust started with just one school, Lydiard Park Academy, and now comprises of a family of 8 schools serving children aged 2 to 18, a virtual school for internal Alternative Provision and SEND support, and a large training provider.



TPAT Vision

Inspiring Futures, Empowering People Our schools are known for exceptional pupil outcomes and achievements, creating an inspiring and empowering environment where every pupil thrives. Our commitment to excellence and a culture of improvement for all makes TPAT a highly sought-after place to work, recognised for excellent career development for our staff and the positive impact we deliver across our communities.

TPAT Purpose

TPAT exists to empower all our people to thrive through opportunity. We aim to benefit our communities by nurturing well-educated, aspirational and creative young people. We achieve this by enriching and fulfilling our employees with the investment to become masters of their craft, all working together to realise exceptional outcomes for young people.

TPAT Values



THE TPAT MISSION

The way we work...

We uphold three core commitments that shape our approach to work. These principles guide us in asking the right questions and offering constructive challenge in every context, fostering innovation, growth, and personal and professional development for our school leaders. This is how we uphold excellent governance practice throughout the organisation.

Aspiration



Aspiration for All

We pledge to foster aspiration in every pupil and staff member across TPAT.

We will:

- Provide a rich, challenging curriculum that enables all pupils to know more, do more, and achieve excellent outcomes.
- Empower our staff to deliver outstanding education and inspire excellence in all pupils, while prioritising their professional growth and wellbeing.
- Remove barriers and ensure that every pupil, especially the most vulnerable, have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential

Behaviours



Behaviours that Reflect Our Values

We pledge to model and cultivate behaviours that align with respect, integrity, ambition, and courage. We will:

- Ensure our leaders set a clear example of how to act, plan, and lead in all situations, providing strong role models for our pupils and staff.
- Create a positive culture of accountability, collaboration, and mutual support, ensuring psychological safety throughout our interactions and drive for excellence across our Trust.
- Foster resilience and well-being among staff and pupils, promoting a healthy, happy environment that enables everyone to succeed.

Cohesion



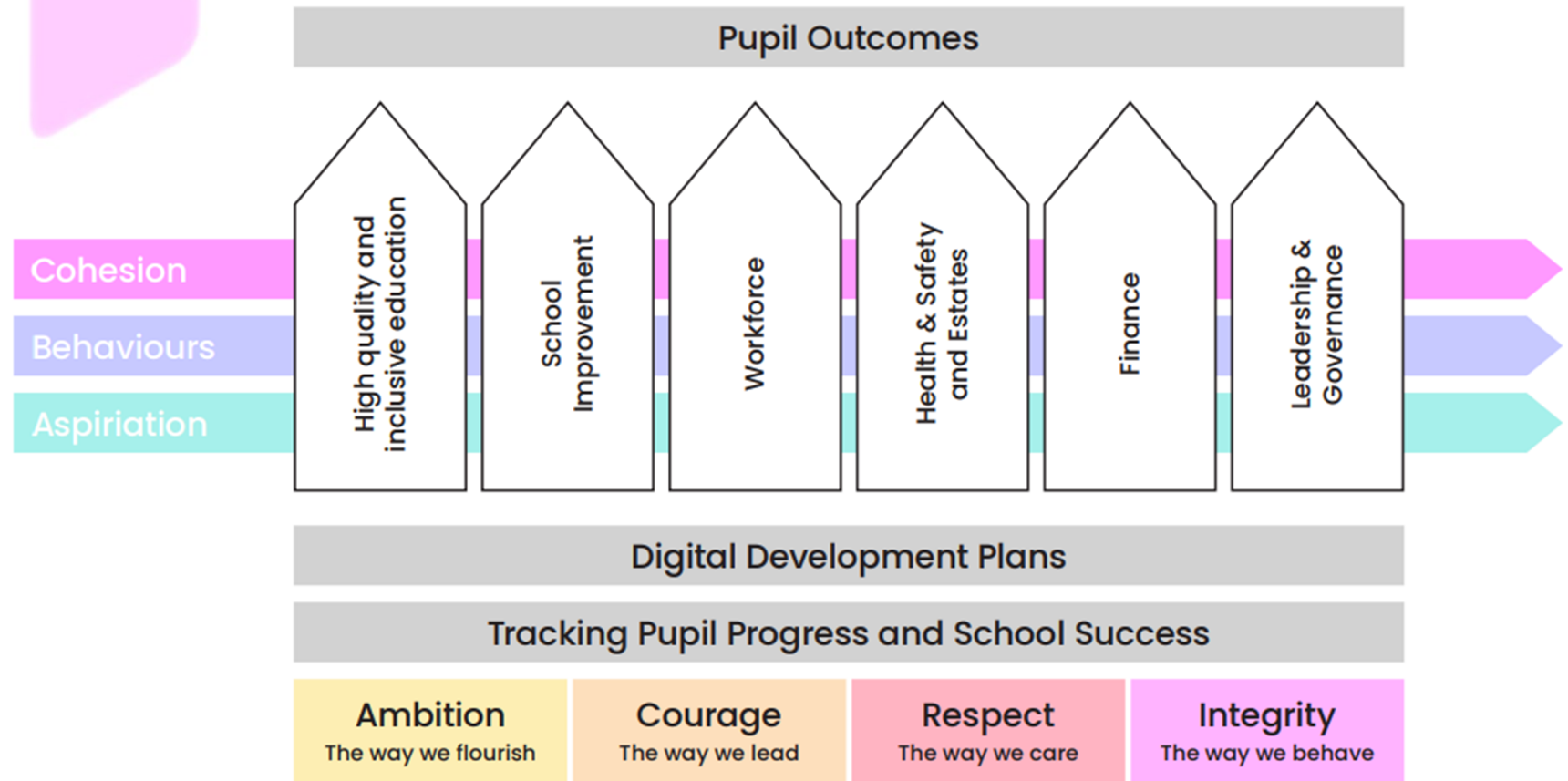
Coherence in the TPAT way

We pledge to create coherence in everything we do, ensuring a unified, consistent approach across our schools. We will:

- Align our school improvement cycle of work, to inform our curriculum, assessment, and support system decisions at all levels in order to ensure every pupil benefits from the same high-quality education and opportunities.
- Maximise the financial resources of the Trust through efficient operations, centralising key services, and reinvesting in our pupils and schools.
- Provide a cohesive and comprehensive professional development framework, ensuring all staff have access to training that develops them within our Trust frameworks for success.

TPAT Strategy

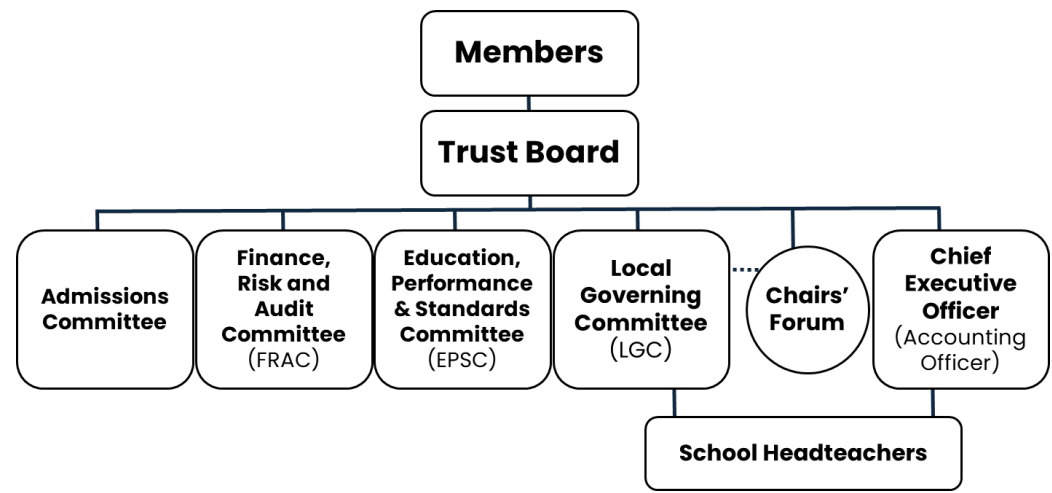
Inspired Futures, Empowered People



We have developed a 5 year strategy which prioritises our energies and improvement over the coming years. We are highly aspirational and have set clear targets to which we are continually striving.

Our strategy pulls together our ways of working, values and development strands. It enables us to align our thinking and prioritise resources to support schools to have the biggest impact for the children and communities we all serve. The full document can be found on our website, and the image shares an overview of how these things work together to realise our vision 'Inspire Futures, Empowered People'.

Our Governance Structure



Members

The Members are the guardians of the Trust. They have the responsibility to appoint some of the Trustees and the right to amend the Articles of Association. The Members also appoint the Trust’s auditors and hold the Trustees to account for the performance of the Trust.

Trust Board

Trustees provide strategic leadership by setting the Trust’s vision, culture, and strategy, and determining governance structures. They ensure accountability through oversight of education, pupil welfare, finances, and estates. Trustees also oversee stakeholder engagement, involving parents, schools, and communities in key decisions. Some responsibilities are delegated to the Local Governing Committees to support this work.

Admissions Committee

The Committee is responsible for making admission decisions as the Admitting Authority and for oversight of the admissions process completed by the Admissions Officer.

Finance, Risk & Audit Committee

The Trust’s management is responsible for financial reporting, systems, and internal controls, under the oversight of the Trust Board. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee supports the Board by overseeing internal and external audit, budgeting and forecasting, financial policies, and executive pay.

Education, Performance & Standards Committee

The Committee’s core role is to oversee curriculum, teaching quality, SEND, academic performance against KPIs, care and inclusion, behaviour, attendance, exclusions, and the effectiveness of Local Governing Committees within their remit.

Church Articles

We have foundation representation in our Members, Trustee board and for our Church of England schools in their LGCs.

Local Governing Committees (LGC)

Local Governing Committees are a committee of the Trustee board, and are made up of local governors only. This includes parents and community representatives. Their work is focussed on school standards, including most importantly the school improvement journey. Where schools are on a more rapid improvement journey, we have a Trust Interim Board in place to meet more regularly and support this progress.

Chairs Group

The Chairs’ Group provides support and advice to our Chairs and Vice-Chairs across the trust and to receive updates and information. It is not a decision making body. They share examples of good practice and consider and recommend any areas of improvement relating to governance across the Trust to the Trust Board.

Local Governors play a vital role in supporting the strategic direction of their school and ensuring it reflects the values and vision of the Trust.

Local Governors are responsible for:

- Supporting the school's alignment with the Trust's mission, values, and strategic vision
- Monitoring the implementation of school-level strategies and key policies
- Providing challenge and support to the Headteacher and senior leadership team
- Overseeing the quality of education, curriculum delivery, and pupil outcomes at the school
- Ensuring effective use of the school's resources and value for money
- Monitoring health, safety, safeguarding, and risk at a local level
- Acting as a link between the school and its community, engaging with parents and stakeholders
- Contributing to effective governance by attending meetings, participating in training, and upholding high standards of conduct

Local Governors are expected to:

- Attend Local Governing Committee meetings, prepare in advance, stay engaged between meetings, and contribute constructively
- Build effective working relationships with fellow Governors and school leaders
- Visit the school regularly and remain connected to its day-to-day life and community
- Commit to training and continuous development to enhance their governance practice

The Role of a Local Governor

How To Apply

Interested?

Please send an email to:

lgc-enquiries@theparkacademistrust.com

Expression of Interest Form

Please complete and return the EOI form to:

lgc-enquiries@theparkacademistrust.com

Informal Meeting

Applicants will have an informal meetings with the Chair of LGC and clerk to learn more about the role of Local Governance Committee and school.

Formal Interview

Applicants wishing to proceed following informal meetings will be interviewed by the Chair of Governors and Principal/Headteacher.

Appointment

Role offered after interview and onboarding commences, including DBS, reference checks and appointment form.

Onboarding

Governance Co-ordinator collects Business Interests and compliance checks. Induction training arranged.

We welcome individuals from all backgrounds, especially those who bring diverse experiences and perspectives.

We are seeking local individuals who are passionate about education, inclusion, and community values, and who are committed to helping our school thrive for the benefit of all its learners, families, and the wider community. You don't need to have experience in the education sector, effective governance relies on a broad range of skills and perspectives. As a member of the Local Governing Committee, you will play a key role in supporting the school's strategic direction, monitoring progress, and helping to shape future priorities. Your contribution will be vital in helping us live out our purpose: **'Inspiring Futures, Empowering People'**

We are committed to strengthening representation from our **Church of England schools** and **enhancing the diversity** of our board. We warmly welcome expressions of interest from all prospective trustees who share our values and meet the necessary criteria.

Professional Development & Networking

We offer access to a range of TPAT governance development training, and access to national networks such as Confederation Schools Trusts, Governor Hub and National Governance Association for further training and support.



The Park Academies Trust

'Inspiring Futures, Empowering People'