



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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To. All Parents and Carers

22 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR OR TRUSTEE?

The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust needs Governors and Trustees and would love to attract the skills and experience of people from our school communities.

Governors

School Governors are volunteers who work together with the Headteacher to deliver the best education for the pupils at their school(s). Generally, school Governors are not specialists in education. Instead, much of the role is about exercising common sense – and of course working together in the best interests of the children. The Governors work with the Headteacher on a diverse range of matters – from deciding what kind of school we want to be and thinking about how we want it to get there, to setting school policies and ensuring money is spent on the right things.

Importantly, the Governors are there to question and challenge the school's leaders on the standards of educational performance. Ultimately, they work with the school to ensure that pupils receive the best opportunities to learn in a Catholic environment in which they feel happy and secure.

The full Academy Council of each school generally meets every half term. Some Academy Councils have formed separate committees (made up of smaller groups of Governors) which meet to discuss particular areas such as finance or the curriculum and standards. Meetings last up to two hours and are lively and interactive. Many Governors work full time and manage to fit in their role around their other commitments. Their motivation is invariably to make a positive contribution to something of fundamental importance – educating our children.

This is a great time to be a Governor at one of the Trust's schools.

Trustees

Trustees serve on the Trust Board, which is led by the Chair. The Trust Board is the decision making body of the whole academy trust and is responsible and accountable for all the schools in the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust.

The Trust Board makes decisions to further the Trust's charitable object, which is to advance for the public benefit education in our Catholic schools. Trustees ensure that the religious character of the Trust is preserved and developed.

It is vital that the Trust Board is connected with, and engages, the communities and stakeholders it serves. The Trust Board is keen to extend its membership by inviting people from school communities to apply to become a Trustee.

Trustees hold the CEO and senior executive leaders to account for the standards of educational performance and viability of the organisation. They agree the strategic direction and priorities of the Trust. They welcome a diverse range of viewpoints when debating decisions. Their decision making is well informed by available evidence and by the views and needs of stakeholders, particularly families.

The full Trust Board meets at least half termly. In addition, committees have been formed to look at resources, risk management, audit, premises, Catholic life and mission, standards, policies and pay matters. These committees meet one to six times a year. Trustees may choose which committee(s) they wish to serve on to suit their interest, availability and skills.

In the coming weeks, the Trust will expand from 12 to 15 schools. This is a hugely exciting time to become a Trustee to have oversight of the integration of the three new schools.

Further Information

Governors and Trustees are unpaid, doing what they do simply to support schools in being the best they can be. In return they gain skills which they may not otherwise acquire, as well as getting a wider perspective on a key part of their community. Most importantly, Governors and Trustees get the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to make a difference in the education of the children.

Governors and Trustees need to be dedicated people who care about improving education. The roles are perfect for people who are looking to give back to society and enhance children's futures.

Please refer to the Trust website for further information about the Trust's governance and our schools.

www.bkcat.co.uk

Eligibility and Application Process

In order to be eligible to serve as a Foundation Governor or Trustee (which are the categories being recruited to), applicants must be a practising Catholic.

Interested persons would need to complete an application form, which is submitted to the Diocese of Leeds for consideration by the Bishop who makes the appointments.

Next Steps

If you would be interested in having an informal chat about the Governor or Trustee role to find out more about how you can contribute to governance, please email admin@bkcat.co.uk and we will arrange for our Trust Governance Manager to contact you and arrange a time for a conversation.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Claire Thomas
Trust Governance Manager