



# BECOME AN ACADEMY COUNCIL MEMBER

The Shaw Education Trust is a multi-academy trust (MAT) with schools across all phases of education, primary, secondary, special and post 16. Schools are situated mainly in the area around Stoke-on-Trent but also in Derby, Lichfield, Cannock, Wolverhampton, North Birmingham, and Bury, Wigan and Leigh in Greater Manchester. We are always looking for passionate and dedicated adults to join our Academy Councils (Governing Bodies). If you think you would like to know more about us and maybe join one of our ACs, please visit our website <https://www.shaw-education.org.uk/> and check out our schools/academies near you.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to know more by emailing our head office or contact our academies directly.

## What role does an Academy Council undertake?

At Shaw Education Trust our core function of governance is:

*“To be responsible for supporting and challenging our Academy and Trust leaders, ensuring that decisions made at a local level are for the benefit of pupils, and directly linked to the strategic vision of the Academy and Trust. To ensure these decisions consider the views of our other stakeholders (parents, staff and local community) and effective communication exists between all. These decisions centre mainly around areas of educational standards & provision, and operational functions, as detailed in the Scheme of Delegation.*

Becoming an Academy Councillor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of one of our Academies. Councillors (Governors) play a key role in the leadership of the academy and work together with the Principal, the Shaw Education Trust, staff, and other Academy Councillors to ensure that our academy provides a challenging and supportive environment for its pupils.

## Commitment of Academy Council members

Academy Councillors are asked to:

- Attend approximately 2-3 meetings a term, which are no longer than two hours in length.
- Prepare for and make an active contribution at meetings of the Academy Council;
- Visit the Academy either during the day or for an evening event to better understand the life of the Academy (with prior arrangement with the Principal);
- Champion the Academy in the local community;
- Familiarise yourself with relevant policies and procedures around governance;
- Participate in relevant training/meetings to enhance your knowledge of the Academy and the world of Education.

## What are the benefits of becoming a Councillor?

- You have a privileged and responsible role that matters. You can make a difference for children in the local community for years to come.
- You can play an integral part in working for the benefit of all stakeholders of the Academy.
  - You will have the chance to develop new skills and to practise existing ones, such as chairing meetings, speaking in groups, asking questions, making suggestions, appointing staff, and monitoring the budget.
- You get to meet like-minded people all passionate about improving the lives of all our children.

# Meet some of our amazing Academy Councillors

## Andrea Tipper

**Parent Councillor at Saxon Hill Academy, Lichfield**



I work in the NHS as a specialist nurse working with children with complex needs and disabilities and have worked there for 25 years in a number of different specialist roles. I bring lots of experience in child safeguarding, people management, multi-agency working, assessments and prioritising the needs of vulnerable children. I am proud to be a councillor at Saxon Hill Academy and want to strive to ensure every child who attends is safe, happy, and enabled to develop their full potential.

## Emma Boustead

**Co-opted Councillor at The Meadows Primary School, Madeley**

I am an Academy Councillor at The Meadows Primary School, Madeley. I decided to apply to be an AC because I wanted to make a positive contribution to my local community and to support the school in offering the best possible education to the children who attend.

As a councillor, I support the school in areas of special educational needs (SEN) and safeguarding. The role involves working with other members of the AC and the school staff to identify how the school can continue to improve towards becoming 'outstanding'.

My best experience has been visiting the new nursery and reception and I am looking forward to seeing how The Meadows embraces our new Trust-wide digital strategy!



## Sara Rioux

**Co-opted Councillor at Brookfields Special School, Halton**

I work at LJM University, where we have a strong ethos of helping in the wider community. I thought that I would like to do that "civic duty" by volunteering to be a Governor. I placed my details on a "matching website" and ultimately visited Brookfields and met the Principal, Sara. I loved the school and felt that I would really enjoy working with Sara and her team so joined the Academy Council.

I think being a co-opted Councillor is all about being the "critical friend" and you get to understand what challenges the school is facing and hopefully provide support and help based on the skills you bring as a Councillor. I absolutely love coming into the school and seeing the children. Having time during the working day to go and share this with staff and parents really is a privilege.



## Kate Barker

**Parent Councillor at Endon High School, Stoke-on-Trent**

I decided to apply for a position on the council of Endon High School, who are part of the Shaw Education Trust, as both of my children attend. I have up until recently been a governor at the local primary school for 4 years. This gave me a really good insight to governance and I knew that I could transfer skills from there to support Endon High and the Shaw Education Trust.

I'm a primary school teacher so have a vested interest in education. I feel my experiences from teaching at primary school will support Endon High School on many levels. I'm keen to be involved in the journey of continuously aiming to be the best of the best, where children, staff and the local community can flourish from a sound education and a mass of experiences that Endon High and the Shaw Education Trust can provide.

I regularly witness the relentless efforts to maintain a sound education, where the welfare of the children and staff are the priority. Endon High continued to push initiatives with the most recent developing our digital strategy with the use of iPads for all as part of the Trust-wide incentive. I'm excited to see where this takes us!



## Julie Ainsworth

**Co-opted Councillor at Woodhey High School, Bury**

I joined the Academy Council of Woodhey High School, as my children became older and wished to continue volunteering after being involved in their school lives. The role of an Academy Councillor (Governor) is a really important role and one where I want to make a difference to the pupils and their futures.

It took me a while to get to grips with a role which is more strategic but can see the positive impact to be made to the school community, stakeholders and most importantly the pupils. Personally, I have been involved with staff recruitment, which was new to me, but with the support of Shaw Education Trust colleagues, I thoroughly enjoyed the process and gained a lot from it.

Being part of a small group of dedicated and committed volunteers, and actually learning more about the many important and varied roles within school has been a wonderful experience.



## Charles Grosstephan

**Parent Councillor at Tottington High School, Bury**



I joined the Academy Council at Tottington High School to help the school move in the direction it wants by both supporting and challenging (healthily) current and proposed ideas, as well as bringing my own ideas to the Council. My daughter is in Year 7 and I live very close to the school, so I have vested interest both as a parent and as a member of our community. I talk to other parents and to people in the area, so I can provide insight and thoughts from these groups. I have really enjoyed getting to know more about the school and the Shaw Education Trust and I've definitely increased my knowledge of the education world.

## Lyndsey Goodstadt

**Co-opted Councillor at The Meadows Primary School, Madeley**

I became a parent AC primarily because my children attend the school and was very quickly impressed with the staff and the way the school is run and wanted to be able to help out in some capacity. My involvement has mainly been through attending meetings, asking questions of leaders, and have also taken part in some panel work which has been a great experience.

As a primary school teacher, I am hoping that I can help support transition and help the AC have a greater understanding of the primary curriculum and how this feeds into wonderful work done in The Orme Academy. Visiting the school is always a pleasure.



## Yvonne Brough

**Staff Councillor at Kidsgrove Primary School**

I am employed as a teaching support assistant at Kidsgrove Primary school, which I have worked at for over 20 years. I decided to put my name forward as a staff representative on the Academy Council to support the school and the vision it had to be the best it can be.

Part of my role in the Academy Council Meeting is as a behaviour link councillor. My day-to-day experiences working in school and being a parent of two boys gives me experience to support and challenge the school leaders to drive forward improvements. Part of my role allows me opportunities to ask challenging questions to senior leaders in the best interest of the children.

The best part of this role has seen the school change and rapidly improve in a positive way. I have welcomed all the opportunities provided through the academy council, and with support of Shaw Education Trust colleagues.



**Act with  
integrity**

**Be best  
in class**

**Pupil &  
people  
centred**

**Be  
innovative**

**Be  
accountable**



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