



Nexus Education Schools Trust Recruitment Pack Local Committee Members



March 2023

Welcome

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this volunteer role within Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST).
The Trust academies are:

Beckenham/ Bromley	Orpington/ Kent	Lewisham/ Southwark
Alexandra Infant School Alexandra Junior School Balgowan Primary School Bickley Primary School Highfield Infants' School Highfield Junior School Pickhurst Infant Academy Worsley Bridge Primary School	Farnborough Primary School Joydens Wood Infant School Joydens Wood Junior School Manor Oak Primary School Perry Hall Primary School	Childeric Primary School Dog Kennel Hill Primary School Goose Green Primary School John Donne Primary School John Keats Primary School Rotherhithe Primary School

In addition, there is the NEST Nursery and the Thames South Teaching School Hub.

The Trust academies are judged to be good or outstanding, have strong leadership and provide a breadth of opportunities and excellent outcomes for all pupils. Our vision is to enable individual schools to flourish with real autonomy, whilst also ensuring a strong ethos of support and collaboration.

Nexus Education Schools Trust believe that all decisions and choices should be child centred.

We aim to:

- nurture every individual,
- provide excellent education outcomes,
- enable all to succeed and
- transform the life opportunities and aspirations of our pupils, allowing them to be fulfilled individuals within an ever-changing world.

We recognise that each school's community is different. We value this uniqueness and contribution to ensuring pupils have the best education and experiences. Each school is fundamental to the success of the organisation. We believe passionately that together we can make a greater difference, providing high education outcomes and wider opportunities for our pupils as well as greater prospects for our staff and communities.

The Trust provides a strong culture of collaboration and support, together with high expectations for staff and pupils alike. An integral part of this collaboration and support comes through the role of the Local Committee and individual Local Committee Members. Those who join as Local Committee Members can demonstrate that they:

- share our values,
- are highly motivated to work with Local Committee Members within and beyond their school,
- continuously develop their skills and pursue professional excellence, and
- are committed to providing the highest standards and breadth of opportunity for all children.

If you have any queries, email: sdossetter@nestschools.org

I hope the pack encourages you to apply for the role of Parent Local Committee Member.

Regards,

Paula Farrow

CEO Nexus Education Schools Trust



Local Committee Member Job Description for voluntary position

“We have a moral purpose to provide excellence and opportunity for all to enable lives to be transformed”

The key purpose of Local Committees is to help Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) provide the best possible education and opportunities for its pupils.

The Trust and the Local Committee have a strong commitment to putting children at the heart of all decisions and a moral purpose to provide excellence and opportunity for all. Local Committees make decisions collectively in collaboration with the Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) Board of Trustees and its committees.

The Local Committee will work with NEST and the school to:

Set the school’s values, vision and strategic aims including;

- agreeing plans and policies relevant to the school,
- setting and maintaining the broad framework within which school leaders and the staff run the school,
- making creative use of resources.

Monitor and evaluate performance including;

- working in partnership with school leaders to support and challenge them in managing the school,
- asking school leaders and, where appropriate, school staff questions focused on school improvement,
- ensuring that the school is accountable to the families it serves, its local community, those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs,
- a commitment to consider what is best for the children.

Abide by the NEST Local Committee Code of Conduct and maintain professional relationships.

Local Committee Members should be:

Committed to:

- raising aspirations, expectations and standards of achievement in NEST schools
- consistently attending and contributing to meetings and the work of the Local Committee
- promoting and supporting equal opportunities for all members of the NEST community
- ensuring NEST schools provide pupils with an educational experience that reflects the ethos and commitment to put children first
- work with and promote the NEST common mission statement

Willing to:

- serve as a committee member for a period of up to four years
- contribute and share specific skills, knowledge and/or experience to help the school provide the best possible education for its pupils
- oversee a key aspect of the school
- visit the school as a Link Committee Member, to develop understanding of how their ‘area’ works within the school for the benefit of the pupils, and observe the school in action
- undertake training identified by the skills audit and keep themselves up to-date on educational matters
- provide objectivity in debate and decision-making
- add further and different perspectives to school matters
- have a willingness to volunteer to join the membership of a NEST Hub committee which provides strategic leadership through the Trust Board committee structure

Local Committees have a strategic remit and their duties are outlined in the Scheme of Delegation.

Duties include:

- Focusing on school improvement
- Working with school leaders, NEST Central staff and NEST Board when making decisions
- Ensuring relevant school policies and procedures are in place and meet the needs of the school
- Appointing Link Committee Members (HATS) to oversee key aspects of the school, these are:
 1. Achievement, Curriculum and Standards
 2. Inclusion, encompassing Special Education Needs (SEN) Vulnerable groups and Pupil Premium
 3. Safeguarding (including compliance), Attendance and Welfare
 4. Provision and Resources

1. Achievement, Curriculum and Standards:

- Ensuring that a broad and balanced curriculum is taught to all pupils
- Reviewing targets set for pupil achievement
- Publishing national test and teacher assessment results
- Comparing the performance of the school to similar schools
- Receiving information about the quality of teaching & learning in the school

2. Inclusion

- Understanding the context of the school
- Ensuring the school meets the needs of all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Ensuring the school supports pupils who are Disadvantaged (those in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant)
- Ensuring the school meets the needs of other vulnerable groups

3. Safeguarding

- Ensuring the school has clear safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures
- Ensuring health and safety expectations are addressed
- Setting targets for attendance, including focusing on high levels of attendance
- Understanding of the school's Behaviour Policy and its implementation
- Equal opportunities

4. Provision and Resources

- Together with school leaders, reviewing the staffing structure linked to the size and needs of the school community
- Considering the repair and maintenance of school buildings
- Considering the use of school premises outside school hours
- Reviewing the budget to ensure it is linked to the priorities of the school
- Having a published strategy for dealing with complaints and concerns

Person Specification

Key Skills, Experience and Knowledge required within each Local Committee

Key Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ability to work within a team● Communication skills● Willingness to take part in self-evaluation● Problem solving● Strategic planning● Influencing skills● Negotiation and mediation skills
Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Commitment to school improvement● Data analysis● Staff recruitment● Financial management / accountancy● Risk assessment● Handling complaints, grievances or appeals● Legal /procurement / purchase
Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Knowledge of the local community● Safeguarding● Special Education Needs (SEN)● Teaching and pedagogy

Local Committee members do not individually need all the above and a biennial audit of knowledge and skills is used to ensure each Local Committee has a balanced membership. In addition, NEST regularly provide training for Local Committee members to enhance and develop key skills and knowledge.