



The Circle Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) of which our school forms a part.

Like all MATs, The Circle Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such is governed by a Board of Trustees which holds ultimate legal accountability and decision-making authority for strategy and operational delivery across the Trust.

An essential core value held by The Circle Trust is the belief that schools should be run by, and their improvement driven by, their staff led by their Leadership Team and Local Advisory Board (LAB).

As a result, the Trustees delegate some of their powers and functions with regard to the leadership and performance of each school in the Trust to the school's LAB. In fact, a LAB is a committee of the Trust Board.



Governance in The Circle Trust

The Trustees, however, retain legal accountability for the operation and performance of all schools in the Trust and for any decisions taken under delegated authority. Therefore, all Local Advisors must ensure that they and their school act at all times in accordance with:

- the Trust's Scheme of Delegation (this is a document which makes clear what Local Advisors are responsible for and what they are not)
- the policies and procedures of the Trust and
- all relevant legislation and regulations.

Since the Trustees take the ultimate legal responsibility and accountability, LABs are relieved of some key governance functions leaving them the time and capacity to influence the most important elements of their school's improvement. Local Advisors, therefore, are able to focus on pupils' progress and experience in the school. This may include but is not limited to ethos, vision, core values, spending priorities, curriculum and students' educational performance.

The Local Advisory Board

The LAB's main functions are to provide the strategic direction for the school, hold the Headteacher to account and ensure that the budget is spent appropriately. The Local Advisors offer strategic advice and direction and as such do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

The LAB is made up of at least eight Advisors, two of whom are elected Parent Advisors. All Advisors' terms of office are for four years from the date of their appointment or election.

The role will involve attending around five formal LAB meetings each academic year. Most meetings are late afternoon or early evening, lasting around an hour and half but no more than two. Advisors are also asked, where practical, to attend an observation day in school once a year – an opportunity for us to observe the realities of school life!

All newly appointed Advisors are expected by the Trust and the LAB to attend induction and safeguarding training (details to be provided on appointment) and also to engage regularly throughout their term of office in the governance training and development opportunities available for Advisors via the Trust (both in person and online).



How to Apply

To stand as a Parent Local Advisor there are no specific prerequisite skills – we are looking for candidates from all walks of life and backgrounds that reflect the diversity of our school population and local community. The most valuable attribute in candidates is a passion for this school and a desire to maximise the school’s effectiveness.

If you decide to stand for election, we ask you to complete a nomination form which can include a short personal statement (of no more than 300 words). It is useful for others to know a bit about you as a potential Parent Advisor – for example, what you do, what stage of schooling your children are at, why you would like to be an Advisor and what experience or skills you have that are relevant to the role.

As a school committed to the safety and well-being of young people, Advisors are subject to a DBS and online (including social media) checks to ensure their suitability for volunteering in a school environment. We also ask all Advisors to sign [The Circle Trust Local Advisor Code of Conduct](#) and declare any interests that may affect the school.

If you want to know more before deciding whether to stand the school’s LAB Chair would be happy to talk to you, their contact details are available on the school’s website.

To find out more about The Circle Trust, you can look at this short guide [Welcome to our Family Circle : guide for new parents and carers](#) and [the latest Circle Trust Annual Report](#) and visit the Trust website thecircletrust.co.uk.