

Job Description

Finance Director (Trustee) - Voluntary role

Role Purpose

As a Director of the MAT Board with designated responsibility for finance, you will provide strategic oversight and expert guidance on financial matters across the Trust. You will lead the Board's scrutiny of financial performance, ensure compliance with statutory requirements, and support the Trust in achieving long-term financial sustainability. Working collaboratively with other Directors and the executive team, you will help ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver high-quality education.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Financial Leadership

- Act as the Board's lead on financial matters, providing expert advice and challenge to ensure sound financial decision-making.
- Oversee the development and monitoring of the Trust's financial strategy, ensuring alignment with its educational and operational goals.
- Support the Board in understanding financial risks, opportunities, and implications of strategic decisions.

Governance & Compliance

- Ensure the Trust complies with financial regulations, including the Academy Trust Handbook and ESFA requirements.
- Lead the Board's oversight of financial controls, audit processes, and risk management frameworks.
- Monitor financial reporting and ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

Budgeting & Performance Monitoring

- Scrutinise annual budgets, forecasts, and financial plans presented by the executive team.
- Monitor financial performance across all academies, identifying trends, risks, and areas for improvement.
- Ensure the Trust achieves value for money and maintains financial resilience.

Collaboration & Support

- Work closely with the CFOO and CEO to understand financial operations and strategic priorities.
- Provide support and guidance to other Board members on financial matters, helping build financial literacy across governance.
- Represent the Board on finance-related committees or working groups as required.

General Director Responsibilities

- Contribute to the overall strategic direction and governance of the Trust.
- Hold executive leaders to account for educational outcomes, operational efficiency, and strategic delivery.
- Promote the Trust's values, mission, and commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Person Specification

Essential

- Professional financial qualification (e.g., ACA, ACCA, CIMA) or equivalent senior financial leadership experience.
- Strong understanding of financial governance, risk management, and strategic financial planning.
- Commitment to improving educational outcomes and public service accountability.
- Ability to work collaboratively and contribute to collective decision-making.

Desirable

- Experience in the education sector or public sector finance.
- Knowledge of academy trust financial regulations and reporting requirements.
- Previous experience as a trustee, governor, or board member.

FAQ's

How much time will this take up?

- Attendance at 3 full Trust Board meetings per year.
- Attendance at 3 Finance & Audit Committee meetings per year.
- Additional time for preparation, reviewing papers, and ad hoc engagement with the Executive Team.

Why this role is worthwhile

Direct impact on young people's lives – Every financial decision you influence helps ensure pupils get the best teachers, resources, and opportunities. By strengthening financial oversight, you're directly helping schools deliver high-quality education.

Guarding public money – Academy Trusts are funded largely by public money. Your expertise ensures funds are used responsibly, transparently, and with maximum value for money — protecting both the Trust and the wider community.

Shaping the future of the Trust – As a trustee, you're not just signing off numbers. You're helping set long-term strategy, ensuring sustainability, and supporting the growth and improvement of schools within the Trust.

Strengthening governance – Finance is one of the most scrutinised areas in the education sector. Your role is central to safeguarding the Trust's reputation, ensuring compliance, and giving confidence to parents, staff, regulators, and the community.

Why your employer should support you

Leadership Development

- Serving as a trustee is effectively a non-executive director role. It sharpens strategic thinking, financial oversight, and governance experience.
- You gain board-level exposure that many organisations would otherwise need to pay for through formal training.

Enhanced Skills

- Decision-making under scrutiny, balancing competing priorities, and managing risk are all highly transferable skills back into your day job.
- Many professional bodies (ICAEW, ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA) recognise trustee service as valid CPD.

Reputation & Corporate Social Responsibility

- Employers can demonstrate a tangible commitment to community and education by enabling staff to give time and expertise.

- Supporting trusteeship strengthens the company's public image and contributes to its ESG/CSR agenda.

Employee Engagement & Retention

- Staff who are encouraged to give back often report greater job satisfaction and loyalty.
- It signals that the organisation values wider personal and professional growth.

Networking & Insight

- Trustees work alongside education leaders, other professionals, and community figures — broadening networks that can benefit the employer.
- Exposure to the education and public sector can bring fresh insights and perspectives into the business.

How do I apply?

To find out more or to register your interest in joining our Board of Directors please contact imoore@cmat.academy or hr@cmat.academy