

The Laurel Trust

Trustee Candidate Information

Contents:

The person we're looking for

Trustee Role Responsibilities

Trustee Person Specification

How to apply

Recruitment Timetable

Who we're looking for

The Laurel Trust is a charity founded to support research and innovation for schools and academies in areas of multi-deprivation including opportunity areas, supporting schools serving disadvantaged communities to make a sustainable difference to children's learning and life chances.

We have successfully supported over 40 imaginative projects nationally. This year we are funding further projects that will make that make a crucial difference to children's lives and that excite and interest us. Our website www.laureltrust.org.uk shows a range of information about some of the projects.

The Board hopes to attract candidates who will help to create a more diverse Board, and seeks a variety of skills and experience, details of which can be found below. But in every instance The Laurel Trust is keen to bring in more expertise to the board for the assurance of meeting its charitable objects, and a commitment to supporting its mission. Our recent interim strategic review has reconfirmed that our mission is supporting schools to further develop evidence informed practice.

Trustee Role Description

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of The Laurel Trust, managing its resources and finances and developing the organisation's aims, objectives and goals in accordance with their agreed strategy, and legal and regulatory guidelines.

The statutory duties of a Trustee are:

- To ensure the organisation complies with its governing document.
- To ensure the organisation applies its resources exclusively for its charitable purpose.
- To contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- To make full use of any specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board make
- good decisions.

In terms of commitment to The Laurel Trust's ethos and work as a charity, candidates should:

- 1) Be aligned to The Laurel Trust's values:

Working with integrity and compassion and in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for children in an approach built on:

- equality
- respect
- trust

2) Demonstrate a commitment to The Laurel Trust's purpose:

To create strategic partnerships with schools, and their [networks/wider communities] , to secure improvement in the quality of teaching, learning and leadership, thereby widening opportunity for vulnerable children.

We do this through action-led school-based research, innovation and evidence-based developments which focus on improving equity and closing the gap. We therefore invite grant applications for funding from collaborations of primary schools, early years settings and special education in areas of deprivation, challenge and disadvantage. Projects need to be focused explicitly on meeting the needs of disadvantaged children.

Time Commitment

- Trustees serve a 3-year term and will be eligible for re-appointment for two additional terms
- Up to 1 day per month, 9 times per year
- Meetings are held in-person in London or online
- Trustees are encouraged to lend their skills and experience as appropriate to support the links with schools, and to contribute to strategy-setting days. School visits are nationwide with remuneration of reasonable expenses for travel and accommodation where required.
- Meetings with external stakeholders as and when appropriate.

Trustee Person Specification & specific skills:

You should be able to demonstrate and provide evidence of the following criteria listed under Part One within your written application. These will be tested further at the preliminary interview stage, along with the criteria listed under Part Two:

Part One

A strong track record of proven and significant achievement in one of the following fields:

- Charity governance with a clear understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship and an understanding of the respective roles of the Chair, Trustees and Executive Officers
- Charity finance, ideally although not essentially, with an added understanding of investment management and grant giving
- Senior leadership in a primary education setting with particular expertise in Special Educational Needs, disability and multi-agency support environment
- Educational leadership in any phase of education in areas of multiple deprivation
- Project leadership in a health and wellbeing environment

- Community engagement, particularly in terms of project management
- Educational research and dissemination or education publishing with specific expertise in preparing and assessing publications
- Policy making and/or influencing policy.
- A proven ability to work effectively as a member of a team while contributing an independent perspective
- Awareness of current issue affecting teaching and education.
- A proven track record of being able to process detail and get to the heart of an issue

Part Two

- A commitment to The Laurel Trust's values and purpose
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the values of accountability, probity and openness
- A willingness to devote the time and effort required to effectively discharge the duties of this role

How to apply

If you're interested in becoming a The Laurel Trust Trustee and have the skills and experience to support and help further develop our organisation please send us:

- A supporting statement illustrating your fit for this role against the criteria and experience sought, and crucially, your motivation for applying for the role;
- A current comprehensive CV, including details of two referees (who will not of course be contacted without your prior knowledge and consent).
- All applications can be uploaded [HERE](#).

We are committed to safer recruitment. All Trustees require a DBS check and will be required to complete the NSPCC online safeguarding course.

Recruitment Timetable

Closing date for applications: Friday 20th May 2022

Candidates should also note the following important dates:

- Preliminary interviews with Trustees Unlimited
Week commencing **30th May 2022**
- Final interview with The Laurel Trust Panel
Week commencing **27th June 2022**

A reminder that this, like most trustee roles, is not remunerated. For an informal conversation, please

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