

Nexus Education Schools Trust

Local Committee Member

JOB DESCRIPTION

The key purpose of Local Committees (LCs) 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 our decisions and a moral purpose to provide excellence and opportunity for all to enable lives to be transformed across the trust group of schools. 'They do this by making decisions collectively, and in collaboration with the Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) Board of Directors, by:

- Setting the school's values, vision and strategic aims, which involves
 - agreeing plans and policies relevant to the school ,
 - helping to set and maintain the broad framework within which School Leaders (Executive Head / Headteacher/ Head of School) and the staff should run the school,
 - making creative use of resources;
- Monitoring and evaluating performance, which involves
 - working in partnership with School Leaders to support and challenge them in managing the school, asking the School Leaders and, where appropriate, school staff challenging questions;
 - Ensuring that the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs
 - When tricky issues arise, to consider above all what is best for the children

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

Their duties include:

- Setting the draft budget and monitoring the overall budget for the school
- Together with School Leaders, agreeing the staffing structure
- Ensuring that a broad and balanced curriculum is taught to all pupils
- Setting targets for pupil achievement and attendance
- Publishing national test and exam results
- Comparing the performance of their school to similar schools
- Receiving information about the quality of teaching in the school
- Having a published strategy for dealing with parental complaints and concerns
- Ensuring health and safety issues are addressed
- Asking challenging questions
- Consulting the School Leaders (Executive Head / Headteacher/ Head of School) and NEST Board of Directors when making decisions
- Developing some school policies and procedures
- Considering the repair and maintenance of school buildings
- Considering the use of school premises outside school hours
- Appointing Link Committee Members to oversee key aspects of the school such as: - Achievement, Curriculum and Standards; Inclusion encompassing, Special Education Needs (SEN) Vulnerable groups and Pupil Premium; Safeguarding (including compliance), Attendance and welfare; Provision, Resources and Finance.

Key Skills / Experience / Knowledge required within a Local Academy Committee

- Ability to work within a team
- Experience of governance in any sector
- Communication skills

- Willingness to take part in Self-evaluation
- Data analysis
- Staff recruitment
- Financial management / accountancy
- Performance Management
- Problem solving
- Strategic planning
- Knowledge of the local community
- Risk assessment
- Influencing skills
- Negotiation and mediation skills
- Safeguarding Special Education Needs
- Handling complaints, grievances or appeals
- Teaching & pedagogy
- Legal /Procurement / Purchasing

Local Committee Members should be:

Committed to

- raising aspirations, expectations and standards of achievement in Nexus schools
- being available to attend* and contribute to meetings and workings of Local Academy 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 in all our decisions
- To work with and promote the common mission :‘ we have a moral purpose to provide excellence and opportunity for all to enable lives to be transformed’

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 such as SEN, a curriculum subject, Safeguarding, etc., as a Link Committee Member
- visit the school in their capacity as a Link Committee Member, during which s/he should meet with relevant Lead Manager (or similar) to develop their 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 LC’s skills audit and keep themselves up to-date on educational matters
- provide objectivity in debate and decision-making
- add further and different perspectives to LC school matters.
- willingness to volunteer to the membership of the Local hub, which prides strategic leadership of the NEST MAT through the Trust Board committee structure.

*Local Committee members’ attendance at meetings will be noted and reviewed at the end of each term.