

Vacancy for an Independent Member of Audit Committee The Dean Trust, Manchester

The Dean Trust is an ambitious and successful multi academy trust based in Trafford, which operates nine schools across Greater Manchester and Merseyside. We are seeking a suitable candidate to join our independent Audit Committee. The successful candidate will have a sound understanding of corporate governance. This role would suit a Grad I CSA, junior lawyer or accountant looking to gain additional experience in a governance role. The role is unpaid but will provide valuable experience of the workings of a multi academy trust and the education sector, board governance and an opportunity to make a difference to the education of thousands of children across the North West. Expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the Trust's policy. The likely time commitment is four meetings per annum of 2.5 hours, plus reading and preparation time, plus attendance at our Annual Governors Conference.

The role of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee makes up one of the three pillars of the Board committee system and forms a critical part of the overall framework of corporate governance for medium to large academy trusts. Academy trusts are charitable companies limited by guarantee which operate state-funded primary and secondary schools on behalf of the Department for Education. Academy Trusts must comply with a wide range of DfE regulations, charity law and public law obligations.

The role and responsibilities of an audit committee are:

- To monitor the integrity of the organisation's financial statements and any formal announcements relating to financial performance
- To review the organisation's internal financial controls, internal control and risk management systems
- Reviewing wider framework of governance and assurance mechanisms
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of the organisation's internal audit function in the light of current risks and trends in the market
- To make recommendations to the main Board in relation to the appointment, reappointment or removal of the organisation's external and internal auditors
- To approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external and internal auditors
- To review and monitor the independence of the external auditors, as well as the objectivity and effectiveness of the audit process
- To report to the board on how it has discharged its responsibilities.

Personal Qualities

Research has shown the following qualities are found in effective Audit Committee members:

- Ability to ask challenging questions
- Recent and relevant financial experience

- Audit experience
- Ability to think clearly
- Experience of being an executive team member elsewhere
- Relevant industry background
- Good listening skills
- An eye for detail
- Team-working skills

To apply for this post please email a CV and short covering letter setting out why you believe you would be suited to the role to the Trust's Governance Support Officer, Mrs Ruth Warburton via email ruthwarburton@thedeanttrust.co.uk.

In order to represent the diverse communities the Trust serves, we would particularly welcome applications from BAME candidates.

For an informal discussion in the first instance please contact Grenville Page (Chair of the Audit Committee) on grenville.page@btinternet.com telephone: 07805 673393.