

Non-Executive Director – Little Thinkers Nurseries

Little Thinkers is a subsidiary nursery provision of Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT). Little Thinkers nurseries pride themselves on being a 'Thinking' nursery that provide children with wonderful experiences that promote development. Their 'curiosity' curriculum is planned by experienced teachers and practitioners who understand the next stage of education and are committed to laying the very best foundations during the early years for their all-through thinking journey.

Little Thinkers settings offer children a selection of natural, real objects as well as modern resources which encourage curiosity and eagerness to explore and create. Little Thinkers nursery provisions are currently located in Paignton and Portsmouth. We would ideally like our new Non-Executive Director to be a commutable distance from one of these locations for meeting attendance and provision visits.

The appointed Non-Executive Director will contribute to the work of the Board in improving the life chances of all of the provisions' children and young people. In particular, they will apply HR knowledge and skills to hold to account the executive team.

- Trustees – or Non-Executive Directors - are both charity trustees and company directors of the board; the role is to hold to account the executive and senior leadership team. The board of trustees manages the business of Little Thinkers and may exercise all the powers of the Trust. The trustees ensure compliance with the Trust's charitable objects and with company and charity law.
- Trusteeship is a voluntary, unpaid role for people who have the energy and skills to make a real contribution to shaping the future of our nurseries. Full training and support will be given to the successful applicant.
- Contribute to the development of future strategic goals, ensuring that the best interests of pupils and local communities are always a priority.
- Ensure the highest levels of transparency, audit, governance and accountability in the education, corporate and financial affairs of the nurseries.
- Have an awareness and understanding of the national policy context and of local needs for education.
- Work with other directors in a supportive, helpful and constructive way to ensure the board is effective when it meets.
- Ensure that effective arrangements are in place to provide assurance on risk management, governance and internal control whilst ensuring openness and transparency in decision making.
- Ensure consistent focus upon what is best for the provisions and their pupils by providing challenge and advice to the executive leadership team.
- Be familiar with the articles of association of the trust and awareness of its powers, duties and objectives.
- Be familiar with the directors' code of conduct and any standing orders of the Trust.

- Every trustee is expected to abide by the trust's code of conduct and the 7 Principles of public life set out by Lord Nolan: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Ensure knowledge is kept up to date regarding legislation of education.

About the organisation

Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools across the South-East and South-West of England, united in their common goal of providing a transformative education to our children and young people. All schools share a common mission, to nurture successful children who are confident and can think and act independently. At the heart of the Trust is the belief that the work that school leaders do must transform the life chances of students. As a Governor, you can work with school leaders to make positive change for the students in your school and ensure they are receiving the best of what the Trust and Schools have to offer.

**Please check your Junk email folder in case any emails end up here, we will be touch with you within a few days by email. Friendly reminder that the charities/organisations emails may end up here too. **

Skills

- Essential Education experience
- Ability to proactively challenge leaders
- Experience of driving improvement
- Desirable Business executive experience
- HR Strategy experience
- Operating at Board level experience
- Senior finance experience
- Risk management
- knowledge Early Years education experience at management level