



The Hanley and Upton Educational Trust

Trustee and Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee (Volunteer Opportunity)



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Welcome from the CEO

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Trustee and Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee at the Hanley and Upton Educational Trust. This is an exciting opportunity to join our thriving, ambitious multi-academy trust at an important phase in its development.

This vacancy has arisen following the retirement of a longstanding and highly respected Trustee.

The HUET is a family of four schools serving the beautiful rural and semi-rural communities of South West Worcestershire including the villages of Hanley Castle, Kempsey, Welland, and Hanley Swan. Our schools are rated highly by Ofsted, and Hanley Castle High School has again been recognised in The Times School League Tables; an accolade that reflects its longstanding reputation for academic excellence.

Our mission is clear for our schools: we aspire for a culture where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to make a positive contribution to the world. We are proud to be an anchor institution in our community committed to inclusion, sustainability, and continuous improvement.

Our values - Belong, Aspire, Achieve - run through everything we do.

The Trust has established a strong reputation for educational excellence, sound financial management and effective governance. We are now seeking an exceptional individual to join the Board as Trustee and Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee, helping us build on these strengths and support our future ambitions.

This influential role sits at the heart of the Trust's assurance and accountability framework. You will provide strategic leadership of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee, supporting the Board in maintaining robust oversight of risk, financial control, compliance and organisational resilience. Your expertise will help ensure that the Trust continues to operate with integrity, transparency and a relentless focus on delivering the very best outcomes for pupils.

If you are an experienced Business Leader, or a finance professional who wants to make a transformative impact in education, combining strategic leadership with operational excellence, then we would love to hear from you. Together, we can shape a future where our schools continue to excel, and our Trust becomes a beacon of best practice for our region and beyond.

I look forward to working with you.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Stow'.

Mark Stow
CEO - Hanley and Upton Educational Trust

About the Hanley and Upton Educational Trust

OUR MISSION

We aim to be the Trust of choice, working in partnership with the families in our area. As a community of distinctive schools, we are united by our common purpose:

To create a school culture in which every individual feels valued, respected, and encouraged to make a positive contribution to the world.

Our ambition is that our children and young people:

***Belong** to a happy, safe and caring community where equality, diversity, and service are celebrated.*

***Aspire** for excellence. Regardless of background and prior learning experiences, all are encouraged to fully develop their talents and abilities within and beyond our rich curriculum.*

***Achieve** their full potential and leave the care of the partnership with the skills and personal qualities required to understand the world, contribute to society, and change it for the better.*

HOW WE WORK

ANCHOR INSTITUTION

We are proud to serve our unique local communities. Working with families and local organisations, we nurture our children and young people to become responsible citizens. We are committed to our inclusive approach to education, and to working in an environmentally sustainable way.

ALIGNED AUTONOMY

We celebrate each school's unique context, and work together to build our collective professional knowledge and agree core principles, which underpin our Trustees' and leaders' decision making.

ALWAYS LEARNING

We are an outward-facing group of schools that take an evidence-informed approach to education. We know learning isn't just for children and young people; we are driven by our professional curiosity and desire to continuously improve.

PROFESSIONAL FAMILY

We value our strong relationships built on trust, care, respect and open communication. These enable our children, young people, and staff to truly thrive.

Key Information



KEY DATES AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Closing date:

9.00am 30 October 2026

How to apply:

The application form is attached as a separate word document.

Completed application forms should be accompanied by a covering letter and sent to Michelle Snape, Trust Secretary by the closing date via snapem@hanleycastlehs.org.uk

Curriculum vitae will not be accepted.

Address:

Hanley Castle High School
Church End
Hanley Castle
WR8 0BL

Tel: 01684 593241

What We Offer

This role provides an opportunity to:

- Make a meaningful contribution to the education of children and young people.
- Apply professional expertise in a strategic governance setting.
- Support the continued success of a thriving Multi Academy Trust.
- Influence risk, assurance and governance at board level.

Safeguarding Statement:

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Online searches are now undertaken on all shortlisted candidates, for safeguarding suitability, as part of the due diligence.

References are obtained, before interview wherever possible, which include specific enquiries about the applicant's background in relation to safeguarding.

Trustee and Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee

Hanley and Upton Educational Trust is seeking to appoint a highly skilled individual to join the Trust Board as a Trustee and Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee.

This is a significant governance leadership role for an individual with professional expertise in audit, accountancy, risk management, assurance, compliance or corporate governance who wishes to use their experience to support educational excellence and strong public accountability.

The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in supporting the Board's oversight of risk, internal control, financial stewardship and assurance arrangements across the Trust.

About the Role

As a Trustee, you will contribute to the strategic leadership and governance of the Trust, ensuring that:

- Educational standards remain at the heart of decision-making.
- Public funds are used effectively and responsibly.
- Risks are appropriately identified, monitored and mitigated.
- The Trust operates within a strong framework of accountability, compliance and assurance.
- The Board receives robust independent assurance on key areas of performance and risk.

As Chair of the Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee, you will lead the committee in providing scrutiny and assurance to the Board on:

- Risk management and strategic risk oversight.
- Financial control and value for money.
- Internal scrutiny and assurance programmes.
- Governance effectiveness.
- Regulatory compliance.
- Fraud prevention and whistleblowing.
- Cyber security and information governance.
- Business continuity and organisational resilience.

You will work closely with fellow trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance and Operations Officer and internal and external assurance providers.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	In line with the expectations of the Academy Trust Handbook and the specialist nature of this role, applicants must hold a recognised professional qualification in accountancy, audit, risk management, assurance or a closely related discipline.	Recognised management/business degree or equivalent related professional qualification.
Professional knowledge and experience	Applicants must also demonstrate: - Senior leadership, executive or board-level experience. - Experience of assessing and managing organisational risk. - The ability to analyse complex information and provide constructive challenge. - Strong strategic thinking and sound judgement. - High standards of integrity and independence. - A commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people.	- Previous experience of chairing a committee, board or governing body. - Experience within the education, charity, public sector or regulated environment. - Experience of internal audit, external audit or regulatory inspection. - Knowledge of academy trust governance and the Academy Trust Handbook.
Time Commitment	The anticipated commitment is: - Approximately 4 Trust Board meetings per year. - Approximately 3 Risk, Audit and Assurance Committee meetings per year. - Reading and preparation time in advance of meetings. - Attendance at occasional training and Trust events. - Regular liaison meetings with the CFOO and broader strategy meetings <i>Meetings are generally held during the evening 5.30pm-7.30pm.</i>	
Personal Qualities	- Willingness and enthusiasm to constructively challenge the work of others to continually improve own and team performance. - Clear strategic vision and ability to see the bigger picture.	

	• Self-motivated with strong personal drive.	
Equal Opportunities	• Acceptance of, and a commitment to, the principles of the trust's equal opportunities policies and practices as they relate to the delivery of services to students.	
Safeguarding	• Good knowledge and understanding of the importance of safeguarding students and the welfare of staff and the action to take to support this. • Displays commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people.	• Up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding legislation and practices.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be eligible to serve as a charity trustee and academy trustee.
- Be willing to undergo an enhanced DBS check.
- Hold a relevant professional qualification in finance, audit, risk, assurance, governance or compliance.
- Be able to demonstrate independence of judgement and strategic oversight.
- Share the Trust's commitment to high standards of governance, integrity and accountability.

Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community. The Trust is committed to building a diverse Board that benefits from a broad range of professional skills, backgrounds and perspectives.