

Non-Executive Director & Committee Member Opportunities in Finance, Audit, & Capital/Estates

Serving in school trust governance provides a meaningful bridge between professional expertise and civic purpose. Joining the Board of **NEAT Academy Trust** creates a rich environment for personal and leadership growth—offering hands-on strategic governance experience that accelerates personal development while bringing fresh strategic insight back to everyday roles.

About NEAT Academy Trust

NEAT is a collaborative family of 6 primary and 2 secondary schools serving over 3,000 pupils across Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Hartlepool. All schools have their distinctive individual ethos, whether Church of England or non-church, reflecting their community, vision and values. NEAT is also host to the **Newcastle Research School**, one of only 30 nationally designated Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) hubs in England, and a designated Department for Education (DfE)

Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

An Opportunity for Strategic Development

We are seeking professionals based in the North East with expertise in **Finance, Audit, Risk, Estates** and **Infrastructure Management** to strengthen our Board of Directors. We offer two flexible entry points designed to fit varied schedules and development goals:

- **Non-Executive Director (Trustee):** Provides high-level strategic oversight, financial stewardship, and support to executive leaders through board and committee meetings. *Pathways exist for experienced leaders to step into Committee Chair roles.*
- **Co-opted Committee Member:** A tailored, focused pathway joining our **Audit & Risk** or **Resources** committees without taking on full trustee duties—an ideal environment for professionals looking to gain their first board-level experience.

No prior board or trustee experience is required—full induction and mentoring are provided.

Collective Benefit: for Individuals and Their Work

- **Strategic & Executive Insight:** Sharpen decision-making, risk evaluation, and high-level analysis, bringing a heightened strategic perspective back to your primary professional role.
- **Non-Executive Leadership Growth:** Gain practical board-level governance experience and develop confident senior leadership capabilities alongside an established, supportive team of directors.
- **Inclusive & Community-Led Governance:** Combine technical expertise with authentic lived experience of our regional context, ensuring strategic decisions directly address real-world local challenges.
- **Tangible Civic Impact:** Apply your professional skills to directly support children, staff, and regional communities, driving educational equity and social mobility.

Practical Commitment & Support

- **Time Commitment:** ~1 day per month for Non-Executive Directors; ~4–6 hours per quarter for Co-opted Committee Members.
- **Format:** Flexible hybrid model combining virtual meetings and across our school sites.
- **Full Support:** Comprehensive induction, pairing with an experienced mentor director, ongoing training, and full reimbursement of all out-of-pocket travel expenses.

Taking the Next Step: We aim to make initial conversations open, accessible, and straightforward.

You do not need to complete a lengthy application form to begin exploring a role.

To start a conversation, simply send a **CV or LinkedIn profile link** to arrange an informal chat or school visit with our CEO, **Steve Haigh**, or Board Chair, **Dr Sasha Ban**.

✉ **Direct Contact:** governance@neat.org.uk

🌐 **Learn More:** governance.neat.org.uk