

INFORMATION PACK
BEYONDAUTISM SCHOOLS
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

2021



INTRODUCTION

This document provides candidates with an overview of the role of Chair of Governors for BeyondAutism schools. Park House (4-13 years) and Tram House (11-19 years) are both judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. The Governing Body are responsible for the oversight and governance of these two schools.

The pack includes an overview of our vision and values, strategic direction, our services including the schools and our Governing Body. This document complements the role description that candidates have been provided with. An outline of the recruitment process and timeline is also given. If after reading the pack you have further questions then please contact Helen Robertson, EA to the CEO, on [020 3031 9700](tel:02030319700) or helenrobertson@beyondautism.org.uk.

In addition to the information here, further detailed information and insight is available at these websites:

beyondautism.org.uk
beyondautismschools.org.uk



Park House School pupil in the playground

OUR VISION

“ Our vision is to ensure everyone with autism accesses an education which empowers a life full of choice, independence and opportunities ”

OUR VALUES



What makes us different?

These values were developed in consultation with our Trustees, staff, parents, governance committees and other key stakeholders. They sit at the core of everything we do and help to drive our strategy.

DEDICATED TO DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

By developing expertise, outstanding services and positive engagement, always seeking to go above and beyond expectations.

COMMITTED TO APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS

By contributing to research and ensuring our staff continually develop and share best practice that ensure aspirational outcomes for people with autism are achieved.

RESPECTFUL

By embracing diversity, showing integrity, acting with compassion and always treating people with dignity.

PROUD TO CHALLENGE

By listening, changing thinking, shifting attitudes and educating.



BeyondAutism presenting at The Autism Show 2019

OUR STRATEGY

Our 2025 strategy and objectives reflect our aspiration at an individual level, through education and developing skills, whilst also influencing attitudes, resources and institutions more broadly in society.

We have set out our strategic objectives below for the next 5 years, and beyond with our [2020-2025 strategy](#).

Our strategic objectives



Reduced school placement breakdown

Empowering schools to manage behaviour and remove barriers to learning



Increased employability

With the skills and confidence to enter the work place, promoting independence and broadening opportunities



People with autism have the life skills to live their ideal week

Empowering choice, opportunity and independence



Increased resilience and confidence in families

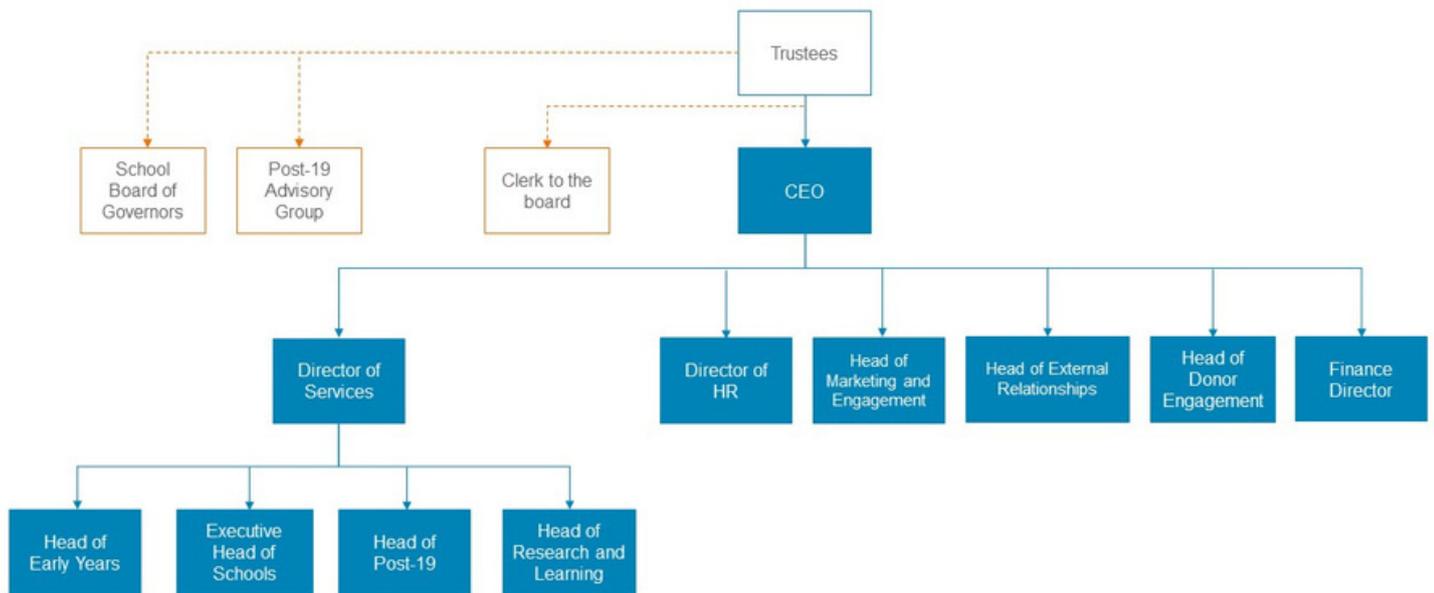
Because families who are resilient, informed and confident make very different decisions, directly impacting the outcomes for their children



Communities are supported to include people with autism

Breaking the cycle of prejudice so that people with autism have choice and opportunity

OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Board of Trustees

BeyondAutism is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of individuals who contribute a wide range of expertise and experience to the charity. The Board meet four times a year and are responsible for strategic development and ensuring the smooth running of the charity.

Senior Management Team

The day to day running of the charity is delegated by the Board of Trustees to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is supported by the Senior Management Team in the delivery of our 5 year strategy.

BeyondAutism School's Governing Body

The Governing Body is a sub-committee of the BeyondAutism Board and has responsibility for the governance of the schools, reporting to the Trustees.

Post-19 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board exists as part of the governance of the Post-19 provision, monitoring quality and compliance in the pursuance of positive and aspirational outcomes for our learners.



Sports day activity

OUR SERVICES

Early Years

At Early Years' we work closely with parents and carers, empowering them to build the skills, knowledge and confidence to support their child in developing communication.

This is a free service developed for parents/carers to attend with their children aged 15 months–5 years. The programme focuses on behaviours, relationships and developmental play, underpinned by ABA. We tailor teaching techniques around the needs and preferences of each child.

The service offers a flexible approach, with attendance designed to fit around the timetable of each family.

Parents are supported by our experienced multidisciplinary team during this crucial time, to empower them to build skills, knowledge and confidence to:

- support their children in developing communication and language – through play, and learning essential skills that they can build upon throughout their journey in education
- and to better understand and cope with their child's behaviours that challenge.



Tutor interacting with Early Years' family

BeyondAutism Schools



Sixth Former at work experience

Each of our pupils is provided with a truly personalised curriculum teaching a skill set that enables them to lead a life of choice and opportunity.

Founded in 2000 by parents of children with autism, the schools are located in Wandsworth, South West London. We deliver transformative education to over 100 students from 16 Local Authorities across London. In 2018 both schools received an Outstanding rating by Ofsted following inspections. Click here to read the [Park House School](#) report or [Tram House School](#).

Our fundamental aim is to see every child and young adult succeed and make a unique and significant contribution to society.

BeyondAutism Schools teach children and young adults with autism how to learn and empowers them with the life skills they need to live as independent a life as possible – from speech and language, self-care and motor skills, right through to reading, writing and maths.

[Click here to read case studies](#) of children and young adults in our services.

OUR SERVICES

Post-19 Provision

Post-19 is an educational service for adults with autism aged 19-25. The service focuses on developing student's functional communication and language acquisition as well as preparing them for adulthood.

In the 2016–17 academic year we ran a pilot of the Post-19 provision with one student in our Hub in Hammersmith and Fulham. This was incredibly successful and led to us making it a permanent service in 2017. There are now over 20 students accessing the service and in November 2019 we opened our second Hub in Wandsworth.

Through an individualised personal curriculum, our students follow a programme of study that best prepares them for adulthood, focusing on the skills required for independent or supported living, training and employment, health and wellbeing and community participation.

By providing just enough support we are preparing our students for their lives after education and enabling them to have choice and control over where and how they live, what they do and with whom.



Post-19 learner and Tutor

Outreach

We support Local Authorities, schools, families, and learners in overcoming the barriers that result in school placement breakdown. Autism is lifelong, and we know early intervention and the right support have a lasting impact.

That's why we use the knowledge and expertise of our staff to provide outreach and consultancy services which deliver life changing outcomes for children and young adults with autism in other settings and at home.

Our team can help people looking to:

- support learners to achieve their desired outcomes and aspirations,
- maintain a placement in a pupil's preferred school,
- promote inclusion,
- successfully support the transitions of learners from early years, primary, secondary and beyond to further education and adulthood
- or feel empowered in your role by developing your skills and knowledge about autism

Training

We run expert face-to-face and online training for professionals, parents, families and carers. Our courses include specialist autism and behaviour analysis training. Our training is designed to boost your knowledge, skills and confidence in:

- meeting the individual needs of children and young adults with autism, and supporting them to achieve their desired outcomes and aspirations
- understanding behaviours that challenge and the importance of communication
- overcoming barriers that result in exclusions from educational settings

Our training team is made up of highly experienced Head Teachers, BCBA's, Specialist Teachers and experts in the field of autism, Applied Behaviour Analysis and Verbal Behaviour.

THE GOVERNING BODY

The Terms of Reference of the Governing Body (GB) state that the maximum size of the GB is 15. Governors will serve for a period of four years and we try and ensure that the periods of office are staggered so that not more than a third of the GB are up for re-election/appointment at any one time.

The GB may elect to appoint the following roles:

1. Vice-Chair of Governors
2. Link Governor for Safeguarding
3. Link Governor for SEN
4. Link Governor for Tram House School (a parent Governor)
5. Link Governor for Park House School (a parent Governor)
6. Link Governor for Health and Safety
7. Link Governor for Policies and Compliance
8. Link Governor for Careers and Employer Engagement
9. Link Governor of GB communications and engagement with parents and staff.

Please note that some of these roles may be combined.



Pupil cooking in the life skills suite

Meeting

The full GB meets once a term, normally in the second half of the term. Meetings last two hours typically and have traditionally been held from 10am and 12pm on a working day. This allows parent Governors to attend who otherwise might struggle with childcare arrangements.

The schools' Admissions Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis to allocate any vacant school places in accordance with the School's published Admissions Policy. The Chair of Governors is a member of the Admissions Committee.

The GB may from time to time establish sub-committees and working groups to assist with its work. All Governors are expected to sit on at least one sub-committee. Sub-committees meet once a term, prior to half term and report their resolutions and recommendations to the full GB.

Each year the GB has an away day, normally in September, at which Governors receive external training (for example safeguarding and school improvement), discuss relevant changes in educational governance and receive presentations from the Executive Head and Deputy Heads.

The Chair of Governors is also responsible for presenting a report to the Trustees on an annual basis.

HOW TO APPLY



To apply to become the Chair of Governors of BeyondAutism schools.

Please contact the HR Director, Ian Hunter, by email ianhunter@beyondautism.org.uk with:

- an up-to-date CV
- a cover letter detailing your expression of interest which outlines:
 - why you are interested in the role,
 - any connection to autism, special needs and/or education that you have,
 - and any particular skills or experience that you believe you can bring to the Board.

The closing date for applications is Monday 15th March 2021.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview and school visit* in the week commencing 22nd March 2021. The final two stages after the initial panel interview will be an interview with the CEO and for the Board of Trustees to meet and approve the successful candidate.

Please note:

This is an unpaid role, however all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

The Chair of Governors must commit to attending three Governing Body meetings (approx. 2 hours) and three Sub-Committee meetings each year. Meetings take place on weekdays between the hours of 10am and 12pm. Meetings are held at various venues in London.

*Covid-19 restrictions dependent



Tutor and pupil playing in the playground