



# Prospective Local Advisors Information Leaflet



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## Information Leaflet

The Circle Trust is an educational charity, that exists to do one thing, to promote education for the public benefit.

We are a community of schools that have shared values and an essential common ethos and vision for education and learning – each with their own unique identity, at the heart of the community.

At the centre of our work is the improvement of educational outcomes for our pupils. We deliberately use the term “educational outcomes” to highlight that we value education in the widest sense whilst balancing our ambition to seek the highest academic performance.

With a range of schools from nursery to sixth form, we actively collaborate to create a unique network of cross phase learning and support.

Together we celebrate our unique individuality, share the same values and support each other to achieve our goals.

**By sharing our resources, we can become greater than the sum of our parts and achieve more together than any one school alone.**



Our vision was borne out of a desire that all children and young people have an excellent, well-rounded education and flourish in first-rate schools where the best teaching, the best facilities and the most up-to-date resources are available to them.





## Our Values

Our essential common ethos and vision for education and learning, are encapsulated in our values which drive our behaviour, decision making and ambitions:



To be anything but utterly inclusive is non-negotiable



What we say is what we do, we recognise talent, foster expertise, believe well-being for all is fundamental



Preserving the unique identity and ethos of all partner schools is essential



Being self-reflective is essential in encouraging innovation, our Trust is always driven to improve further



Our Trust promotes collaborating with others and being outward looking



The highest educational outcomes for every learner is paramount

# Our Schools

To date our growing family circle includes:



## Emmbrook Infant School

Infant School based in Emmbrook, Wokingham



## Emmbrook Junior School

Junior School based in Emmbrook, Wokingham



## Nine Mile Ride Primary School

Primary School based in Finchampstead,  
Wokingham



## Shinfield Infant and Nursery School

Infant and Nursery School based in Shinfield,  
Wokingham



## St. Crispin's Secondary School

Secondary School and Sixth Form in  
Wokingham



## The Emmbrook School

Secondary School and Sixth Form in Emmbrook,  
Wokingham



## Wescott Infant School

Infant School based in Wokingham



## Westende Junior School

Junior School based in Wokingham





## Governance in The Circle Trust

Like all MATs, The Circle Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees which holds ultimate legal accountability and decision-making authority for strategy and operational delivery across the Trust.

An essential core value held by The Circle Trust is the belief that schools should be run by, and their improvement driven by, their staff led by their leadership team and Local Advisory Board (LAB).

As a result, the Board of Trustees delegates many of their powers and functions with regard to the leadership and performance of each school in the Trust to the school's Headteacher and the LAB, which is a committee of the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees, however, retain legal accountability for the operation and performance of all schools in the Trust and for any decisions taken under delegated authority.

Therefore, all Local Advisors must ensure that they and their school act at all times in accordance with:

- the Trust's Scheme of Delegation (this is a document which makes clear what Local

Advisors are responsible for and what they are not)

- the policies and procedures of the Trust and all relevant legislation and regulations.

Since the Trustees take the ultimate legal responsibility and accountability, LABs are relieved of some key governance functions leaving them the time and capacity to influence the most important elements of their school's improvement.

Local Advisors, therefore, are able to focus on pupils' progress and experience in the school. This may include but is not limited to ethos, vision, core values, spending priorities, curriculum and students' educational performance.



# The Local Advisory Board

The LAB's main functions are to provide the strategic direction for the school, hold the Headteacher to account and ensure that the budget is spent appropriately. The Local Advisors offer strategic advice and direction and as such do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

The LAB is made up of at least eight Advisors, two of whom are elected Parent Advisors. All Advisors' terms of office are for four years from the date of their appointment or election.

The role will involve attending around six formal LAB meetings each academic year. Meetings typically last an hour or so – no more than two. Whilst most of our meetings are in the evenings, we do occasionally depend on having some Local Advisors available during the day. Advisors are also asked, where practical, to attend an observation day in school once a year– an opportunity for us to observe the realities of school life!

All newly appointed Advisors are expected by the Trust and the LAB to attend induction and safeguarding training (details to be provided on appointment) and also to engage regularly throughout their term of office in the governance training and development opportunities available for Advisors via the Trust (both in person and online).



## Are you interested in finding out more?

If you would like to find out more about our Trust, please take a look at [The Circle Trust Annual Report](#).

If you'd like to know more about becoming involved in the governance of our Trust, our Company Secretary, Rebecca Clarke, would be happy to talk to you.

Email: [companysecretary@thecircletrust.co.uk](mailto:companysecretary@thecircletrust.co.uk)





The Circle Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (number 11031096) whose registered office is The Oval Offices, C/O St Crispin's School, London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1SS. Tel: 0118 3381961