

Are you interested in the education of young people?

The National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) is a well-established charity that is committed to advancing educational provision for able children by:

- Conducting research into provision within schools' curricula for such children
- Supporting the training of school leaders and teachers engaged in the education of able children.

'Addressing the needs of more able learners can raise achievement for a much wider group of learners in a school by increasing challenge for all' – NACE core principle

Through its provision of services including the NACE Challenge Award, the NACE Challenge Development Programme, bespoke CPD and consultancy, NACE is proactively engaged in achieving the aforementioned objectives. In addition, the organisation is actively developing new services, such as those introduced to facilitate virtual working during the pandemic, which have proved very successful. Further training provision will be rolled out to enhance our on-demand course offer of support for school leaders and practitioners to create cognitively challenging classrooms for the benefit of all learners.

Your Contribution

In order to ensure that it has the capacity to fulfil its strategic objectives and advance its plans for the future, NACE is seeking additional trustees to join the Association's Board ***who have a passion for public service as well as sufficient time at their disposal to positively impact the lives of young people.*** Whilst an interest in or knowledge of education is desirable, it is not a pre-requisite because the role includes holding the executive leaders of NACE to account plus agreeing and overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation whilst ensuring that resources are deployed to achieve maximum effectiveness whilst financial sustainability underpins all the activities and operations that NACE undertakes.

The General Responsibilities of Trustees

- Ensure that the Association complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensure that the Association pursues its objects as defined in its governing document.
- Ensure the Association applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects.
- Contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the Association, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- Safeguard the good name and values of the Association.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Association.
- Seek to maintain the financial stability of the Association.

In addition to these statutory duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve:

- scrutinising board papers;
- actively engaging in discussions;
- focusing on key issues;
- providing guidance on new initiatives and developments.

Recruitment, Appointment or Election of Trustees

The charity's Articles of Association currently specify that one third (or the number nearest to one third) of the Trustees must retire every two years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a Trustee, a retiring Trustee may be re-appointed. The maximum term of office for a Trustee should be 9 years, with 2 cycles of 3 years with the option of a further 1, 2 or 3 years.

All Trustees must be individuals rather than corporate bodies and they must be aged over 18. Trustees may be appointed at any time by an ordinary resolution providing the appointee is a person who is eligible and is willing to act as a Trustee. Co-opted Trustees may be appointed mid-year if it is felt necessary to fill a vacancy or to balance the level of skills contained within the Board. Co-opted Trustees shall hold office only for one year although he / she may be elected in accordance with the terms of the Articles. Trustees do not have to be members of the Association.

All Trustees receive a general introduction to the charity, its organisation, structures and employees. They are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to effectively undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only one or two new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is also taken of appropriate courses offered by various external providers.

Structure, governance and management

NACE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Consequently, Board members are simultaneously Trustees of the charity and directors of the company. The Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the charitable company.

Directors' liability

Each Board member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member. The financial liability of each director that would arise to underwrite the debts and liabilities of the company if it was wound up will not exceed £1.

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the charity has procured insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts as well as errors or omissions occurring whilst on charity business. The insurance provides professional indemnity cover of up to £1,000,000 and charity trustee liability of up to £500,000.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It sets the general strategy and business plans for the charity, approves an annual budget, monitors performance against the Association's plans and budgets and makes major decisions about strategy, charity development and senior staff appointments.

The Trustees meet at least 4 times each year. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned structure of meetings has changed with most meetings being conducted remotely via Zoom with one meeting being held face-to-face annually. In addition, regular meetings are held between the Chair, Vice-Chair, Finance Trustee and CEO to monitor and adapt the organisation's response to schools' priorities.

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day management of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

The application process

If you are interested in applying to join the NACE board, please send your CV and an expression of interest to our Company Secretary, Vincent Benson, at vincentbenson@nace.co.uk by Friday 12th July.

Interviews will take place during the week commencing Monday 15th July.

The interview process will involve current Board members so you will have the opportunity to meet some of the people with whom you could be working in the future.

Trusteeship is a voluntary, unpaid role, but if you possess the energy and skills to make a real contribution to enhancing the educational achievement of young people, you will find the work extremely rewarding.

So, if you want to make a difference and you share the ambitions and aspirations of the current NACE board, please apply to become a Trustee. You will be warmly welcomed.

Further information can be found on the NACE website (www.nace.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.