



**MIST**

Appointment of Chair  
February 2024

Project code: VAFASB







# About MIST

The Methodist Church is engaged in education as part of its Christian mission in the world. Methodist Schools are inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals are valued, relationships cherished, and where excellence in its widest sense (academic, extra-curricular, lifestyle) is pursued. Methodist Schools aim to maintain high educational standards in all academic, cultural and sporting activities and provide excellent pastoral care, stimulating excitement in learning and the required discipline in study for all pupils so that, whatever their ability, they thrive and develop to their full potential.

Today, Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST) has oversight of ten independent schools. In addition, the Trust liaises with three associated Methodist independent schools and three affiliated schools and supports one of its own schools in their oversight of schools in Dubai and in West Cairo.

MIST encourages the implementation of the agreed [Methodist Ethos Statement](#) in its own workings and in each of its schools. The Trust is working on a new strategic plan to be launched in September 2024.

MIST does not act in educational isolation but is part of a wider Methodist Schools and Education network working with the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust ([MAST](#)), the Epworth Education Trust ([EET](#)) and The Inspiring Lives Education Trust ([ILET](#)). Methodist Education comes together in the Methodist Schools Committee to fulfil the Methodist Church's '[Transforming Lives](#)' agenda.

The Trust has a turnover in the order of £100m and is constituted as an incorporated charity. Financial information is prepared and published on a consolidated basis. The head office is based in London and in addition to servicing the needs of the Trust itself, the office provides opportunities for the sharing of good practice and for schools to work more closely together. Key elements of this include a Schools' Conference, termly meetings of Heads, Chairs of Governors, and Bursars, a Chaplains' Conference and specialist day events for other staff (safeguarding, HR leads, ethos).

MIST is supported by a group of dedicated Trustees who are drawn from various professions and offer the Trust considerable experience and commitment. MIST's primary guidance and reference document for Trustees, Governors and School Leaders is the [Governance Manual](#). A list of our current Trustees is available [here](#).







# Schools

## **MIST Schools**

Culford School – [www.culford.co.uk](http://www.culford.co.uk)

Farringtons School – [www.farringtons.org.uk](http://www.farringtons.org.uk)

Kent College, Canterbury – [www.kentcollege.com](http://www.kentcollege.com)

Kent College, Pembury – [www.kent-college.co.uk](http://www.kent-college.co.uk)

Queen's College, Taunton – [www.queenscollege.org.uk](http://www.queenscollege.org.uk)

Shebbear College – [www.shebbearcollege.co.uk](http://www.shebbearcollege.co.uk)

Truro School – [www.truroschoool.com](http://www.truroschoool.com)

Woodhouse Grove School – [www.woodhousegrove.co.uk](http://www.woodhousegrove.co.uk)

Lorenden Preparatory School – [www.lorenden.org.uk](http://www.lorenden.org.uk)

Moorlands School – [www.moorlands-school.co.uk](http://www.moorlands-school.co.uk)

## **Associated Methodist Schools**

Ashville College – [www.ashville.co.uk](http://www.ashville.co.uk)

Kingswood School – [www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk](http://www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk)

Rydal Penrhos School – [www.rydalpenrhos.com](http://www.rydalpenrhos.com)

## **Affiliated Schools**

The Leys School – [www.theleys.net](http://www.theleys.net)

St Faith's School – [www.stfaiths.co.uk](http://www.stfaiths.co.uk)

Queenswood School – [www.queenswood.org](http://www.queenswood.org)

Kent College Dubai – [www.kentcollege.ae](http://www.kentcollege.ae)

Kent College Cairo – [www.kentcollegeegypt.com](http://www.kentcollegeegypt.com)



# The Role

The Rev'd Dr Calvin Samuel will be stepping down as Chair of MIST at the end of this academic year (31<sup>st</sup> August 2024) to seek an overseas ministry post after 4 years of service and we are initiating the search for his successor. The new Chair, with the MIST Trustees and working through the Executive Team, will be responsible for taking the Methodist Independent Schools Trust into the next phase of its development.

Experience of strategic leadership, chairing and governance/trusteeship in an ethos-driven organisation will be essential. A knowledge and understanding of education (and preferably schools) will be vital. S/he will appreciate both the corporate and charitable nature of the entity and in leading one of the UK's 100 largest charities by turnover, have strong business and commercial acumen (particularly in the current political and economic climate that poses such a challenge to UK independent schools).

MIST is on a journey to diversify its board in order to make it more representative of the local schools and the communities they serve. The new Chair will be a powerful advocate for the work of Methodist independent schools both within the Methodist Church and in a public context, and a confident communicator across a range of audiences. S/he will bring experience and insight both to the work of the Trust and to that of its partners in the

broader Methodist education context, including those in the UK and abroad, strengthening and developing a shared vision for the ongoing provision of education rooted in a Methodist ethos.

Accountable to: Methodist Conference and members of the Trust

## Key Relationships

- MIST Trustees
- CEO of MIST
- Chairs of Governors, Heads of MIST schools
- Senior colleagues in the Methodist Connexion and in wider Methodist organisations
- Governing Bodies and Chaplains of Methodist Independent schools, including the affiliated and associated schools
- Chair of the Methodist Schools Committee
- Chairs and Senior Executive Officers of the Methodist Schools and Academies Trust the Epworth Education Trust, the Inspiring Lives Education Trust





# Role Description

## Key Responsibilities

- The Chair must ensure that the Trust fulfils its legal and fiduciary duties in a manner that is consistent with the policies and values of the Methodist Church.
- The Chair, with the Executive, is responsible for the strategic vision of the Trust, clarifying its vision and purpose.
- The Chair plays a crucial role in reminding stakeholders of the culture and ethos of the Trust and in articulating its vision.
- The Chair is responsible for the effective and efficient working of the Trust (including its staff, committees, working parties and meetings), holding trustees to high standards of governance and ethos-driven behaviour.
- The Chair must ensure that the schools are well run with effective leadership within them.
- The Chair plays a key representational role; speaking on behalf of the Trust to the Church, to Government and to the media.
- The Chair's oversight of the board includes planning for trustee succession and continuous review and development.
- The Chair must speak, on behalf of MIST, with and to the Church reminding and encouraging the Church of the role played by the schools in the wider purposes and mission of the Church.
- The Chair will visit schools as may be appropriate and foster a sense of common purpose between the Trust and the schools.
- The Chair will work with the Executive to ensure that the Trust acts as a good employer and that the working environment for staff and relationships between staff are consistent with the Trust's Methodist ethos.
- The Chair will ensure the team (through the CEO) are appropriately supported, reviewed and developed.
- The Chair is responsible for line management of the CEO.







# Person Specification

Candidates should demonstrate all or most of the following:

- In tune with Methodist Ethos and values.
- Experience of strategic leadership – ideally in both governance and executive roles.
- Strong financial and business skills; an understanding of the principles of risk management.
- An understanding of Charity governance and the responsibilities of trusteeship.
- Emotionally intelligent, with personal integrity and proven resilience.
- Experience of the education sector.
- Experience of line managing senior executives.
- Able to chair meetings with courage, confidence, efficiency and sensitivity.
- Outstanding communicator, able to engage with internal and external stakeholders including members of the wider Methodist schools family, the Methodist Connexion, and international Methodist education.
- An ability to build relationships with Trustees and employees.
- Political acumen.
- Excellent time management.
- Experience of working with professional volunteers.





# Terms of Appointment

The time commitment for this role is envisaged to be 4-6 days per month. This includes the following:

- chairing meetings of the Trust - currently 4 each year
- chairing meetings of the Executive Committee - currently 4 each year
- acting as an *ex officio* member of the Finance Committee and of the Nominations and Governance Committee
- attending as a member of the Methodist Schools Committee
- attending, as invited, group meetings of the Heads and of the Chairs of Governors
- visiting schools
- participating, as needed, in the appointing process for Heads of schools
- sharing in other occasional meetings, consultations or conferences, such as the annual Strategy Away Days in September, February at Farrer.

Meetings generally take place in London. The schools are spread across the country. Reasonable expenses will be paid, including for overnight stays where required in line with MIST's expenses policy

The Chair is appointed for a term of 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further 2 terms.

# How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to MIST on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code VAFASB. Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Thursday 7 March 2024.

\* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.  
GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.





## Saxton Bampfylde

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