



Reach4 Academy Trust  
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

**YOU could help schools provide their pupils with the best possible start in life – interested?**

We are a new academy trust, closely linked to one of the top performing academy trusts in the country, working with primary and secondary schools in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire. We need top professionals to join Local Governing Bodies for our academies to champion and challenge our work. Could this be your chance to make a big difference?

**What is an academy?** Academies are state schools funded directly by central Government rather than run by local authorities. Academies have extra freedoms (for example collaborating to procure services directly), are subject to the admissions code and must provide a broad and balanced curriculum. An academy trust is a charitable company responsible for running its academies.

**Who are Reach4?** We are a new academy trust that will have some 15 primary and secondary academies by the end of the school year, with further growth in train. We are a sister trust to REAch2 which started in 2012 and is now the largest primary-only academy trust in the country, with over 50 academies. We work in some of the most deprived communities in England to give pupils the best possible start in life. Don't worry – you may not have heard of us, we don't believe in lots of corporate branding. We want our schools to flourish in their own right, not deliver a one-size education. And we make a big difference: in schools sponsored by REAch2 for 2+ years, 25% more pupils achieve national benchmarks by the end of primary than when they first became academies. Which may be why founding headteacher and CEO Steve Lancashire was knighted in January...

**What do we need from you?** We want your professional skills, strategic thinking and willingness to challenge and push us harder. We believe in effective governance at every level, starting from where decision-making has its greatest impact i.e. at school level. We want local skilled professionals to join elected parent and staff governors and academy principals on Local Governing Bodies, bringing independent challenge and new perspectives. Or if you don't feel able to make a long-term commitment, we need your help on 'transition boards' (typically running for 6-8 months) providing governance for newly joined schools and recruiting permanent governors to take over in the longer term.

**You could be a governor with one of our schools** in Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley (see map on next page). We are looking for **skills/expertise in finance, law, HR, risk management, data analysis and more!** Experience of the education sector would be a bonus but is certainly not essential. Joining one of our local governing boards would typically involve you in:

- 2-3 meetings per term, three terms per year, of full board and specialist committees such as finance (meetings may be more frequent for two-term duration 'transition boards').
- other events to connect with key stakeholder groups or other Reach4 governors.

Meetings will normally be held at the school, with timing (day/evening) determined as far as possible by members' availability. Travel expenses are payable.



**What will you get out of it?** Aside from the buzz of making a difference to kids in some of our most deserving communities? You can also expect to:

- develop/broaden/deepen your professional or other expertise in another context
- demonstrate team-building and team-working skills
- network with other skilled professionals and community leaders.

**Interested?**

Please contact [anna@reach4.org.uk](mailto:anna@reach4.org.uk) or read more about us at [www.reach4.org.uk](http://www.reach4.org.uk) including our governance page at [reach4.org.uk/about-us/governance](http://reach4.org.uk/about-us/governance).

**Overview of Reach4 academies (open or in process of joining), May 2016**

