

Non-Executive Director of Camden Learning Ltd Role Description and Selection Criteria

The organisation

Camden Learning Ltd is a local partnership set up for the benefit of children and schools. It is a joint enterprise set up between Camden schools and the London Borough of Camden. We bring teachers, headteachers and other education practitioners together, to share expertise, drive improvement and develop excellent practice. It also delivers or manages a number of statutory services under contract from Camden. It has a turnover of around £3.9million. The company continues to expand and plans to employ staff directly in future.

Camden is a high performing borough with all its schools judged outstanding or good by Ofsted. However, it is also a borough with high levels of disadvantage and this role is an opportunity to positively impact on the lives of young people as Camden develops and implements its Education Strategy for the next 10 years.

Camden Learning itself is already a leader amongst education partnerships. It is based in the exciting and vibrant borough of Camden, with its offices in Kings Cross and is chaired by Christine Gilbert, CBE, who is a Visiting Professor at UCL, Institute of Education, who co-chairs the national organisation of education partnerships. Its website is [here](#) and the annual review is [here](#).

Camden Learning is a school company limited by guarantee, overseen by a Board of Directors, who are:

- elected by Camden Schools; or
- appointed by Camden council; or
- appointed by the Board for their specific skills and knowledge.

It operates on a not-for-profit basis and the positions being advertised would be on an unpaid volunteer basis and appointed on the basis of the contribution their skills and knowledge would make to the Board.

Director role description

The role of the Director

Directors have responsibility for directing Camden Learning Ltd, meeting their duties under the Companies Act and ensuring that works towards its key objective of improving outcomes for children and young people in Camden. To do this, the Directors focus on the company's strategic direction delegating day to day operational decisions and matters to the Managing Director and the company's staff.

Directors must be eligible to be a Director under the Companies Act and related legislation.

Statutory duties

- To ensure that the Camden Learning Ltd complies with its governing document, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document.
- To ensure the organisation uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects.
- To promote the long-term success of the company.

- To exercise reasonable skill, care and diligence, contributing actively to the Board of Directors' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To ensure the financial stability and probity of the organisation.
- To exercise independent judgement as a Director.
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To declare any interests or potential conflicts of interests in transactions.
- To abide by the company's policy on gifts and benefits from third parties.
- To abide by any other policies including those in relation to safeguarding and data protection.

Directors are expected to hold themselves to high standards, including the Nolan Principles as set out [here](#).

Other Director responsibilities

Directors commit to attending at least six Board meetings per year which are each 2 hours in length, as well as the Annual General Meeting. Meetings are generally held during UK office hours. In addition, Directors participate in two away days annually. A comprehensive and tailored induction will be offered to appointees. A Board term is typically for four years.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Director should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board to reach sound decisions and ensure the organisation fulfils its objects.

This will involve:

- Attending Board and other meetings as appropriate.
- Preparing for Board meetings by reviewing reports and other documentation submitted for Board approval.
- Participating in one or more Board committees or working parties as required.
- Contributing specialist skill and knowledge where required.
- As a Board, setting the company's strategy and monitoring its outcomes.
- As a Board, monitoring the performance of the Managing Director and his senior team

Person Specification and Requirements for this role

- A commitment to the aims and values of Camden Learning.
- A commitment to abide by the standards of conduct expected of a company Director.
- Ability to provide the level of commitment required for this role.
- Ability to work at a strategic level in concert with the other Directors.
- Experience of governance is desirable but not essential
- Knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas would be valuable –
 - Social enterprise, especially work with underrepresented communities
 - Financial services, specifically accountancy and audit
 - Commercial services (strategic planning, marketing, business planning, etc)
 - Research
 - Health services

What we are looking for

We are looking to appoint between 2 and 3 Directors. Owing to the makeup of the existing Board, we cannot appoint a Director who is, or has been, an employee of a local authority or

a local councillor at any time in the four years prior to appointment (i.e. a Local Authority Associated Person under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

While appointments will be made on merit, a key motivator is to broaden the diversity of the Board. This will allow the Board to better reflect the demographics of Camden and to increase diversity of perspectives amongst the Directors. We are therefore keen to receive applications from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic candidates.

The existing Directors are high performing and well-qualified but with an emphasis on public sector and education experience. We are keen to appoint a Director with expertise in finance (ideally one of those appointed would have the skills and professional background to lead an finance and audit committee). However, we would consider potential Directors from any background, subject to their not being a Local Authority Associated Person.

An enhanced DBS check will be carried out on successful candidates. Candidates must be eligible to be a Director under the Companies Act 2006 and related legislation.

To arrange a discussion or if you have any questions regarding the role, please contact Owen Rees, Company Secretary, Camden Learning Ltd at owen.rees@camden.gov.uk or on 02079744449.

To apply, please submit a CV to customer.support@camdenlearning.org.uk by 26th April 2021, with a covering letter or email setting out your reasons for wishing to become a Director. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview by a committee of Directors.