

- Do you care about the 1 in 5
- children in the UK who have speech and language challenges?
- Do you have 2-3 days per year free to volunteer?
- Could you bring a fresh perspective to decisions at our growing charity?

Committee volunteers

Recruitment Pack, April 2024

Give us your advice, support and challenge



Introduction

1 in 5 children in the UK have a speech and language challenge and this number is increasing year on year.

Our growing charity is helping to give more of these 1.9 million children confidence in their futures. We have recently rebranded and launched our new strategy Confident Young Futures so that we can change more young lives.

Speech and Language UK runs and operates two special schools for those children with most complex speech and language challenges.

Dawn House, near Mansfield and Meath, which is based in Surrey

Like all schools, we have a governance structure which provides oversight and strategic direction to our schools. This is done by the Education Committee across both school, with a local board for each school, called the School Advisory Board Board.

The School Advisory Board's primary role is to provide independent non-professional assurance to the Schools' Education Committee based on the 'lived experience' of pupils, staff, parents and members of the community

We are looking for additional volunteers for our Education Committee who could make a real difference:

- **Strategic impact:** Contribute to shaping the educational future of children with complex speech and language challenges.
- **Direct influence:** Provide guidance and support to ensure our schools deliver the highest quality education.

We would love to hear from you if you can bring some fresh thinking to these committees. We are particularly looking for people who:

- Are a person of colour, LGBT, disabled, working class, under 35 years old or from the North, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland **OR**
- Have family or personal experience of speech and language challenges **OR**
- Have worked in leadership position in a school or trust or with Health & Safety/Facilities Management experience

We are not expecting anyone to have sat on a committee like this before – either in a charity or a company.

If you have done this, great, but please apply whether you have or not. We value fresh perspectives as much as experience.

Over the next few pages, we will tell you a bit more about the role and our organisation.

Thank you so much for your interest in our charity. We hope to hear from you.

Best wishes,
Neil Maslen, Director of Education at
Speech and Language UK

Susan Gregory, Director of Speech and
Language UK Services Limited and Board
Observer

Dawn House School

Putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do

Who we are

Dawn House is a day and residential school that supports children and young people aged five to 19 who have complex speech and language challenges that are barriers to their learning. We have been judged by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' since 2015.

What we do

We provide a combination of specialised education, therapy and care, creating a community of happy, independent, and confident communicators. We enable children with complex speech and language challenges to look to the future with confidence.

We are committed to integrating outstanding education and in-house therapy for all pupils in a highly specialist environment where their speech and language challenges do not prevent them from learning. We work hard to ensure that children receive an appropriate curriculum, are happy and engaged, and take part in a range of experiences.

Our mission

Dawn House achieves all this by supporting children with complex speech and language challenges to **engage, develop, communicate, aspire.**

Engage - Joining in with the things on your timetable and your learning.

Develop - Having a go and improving your skills in any area.

Communicate - Using positive and kind words, working with others, asking for help and listening to others.

Aspire - Believing in yourself so that you can try something new and achieving something you want to.



Meath School

A nurturing community with communication at its heart

Who we are

Meath is a school that helps children aged four to 11 with complex speech and language challenges to build the foundations they need to thrive. We have been rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' since 2007.

What we do

We work hard to prepare children for the next stage of their education and give them the tools they need to independently access the learning and education that will allow them greater life choices and experiences. Our collaborative and immersive environment encourages children to be effective communicators and to learn various ways to have their voice heard. To do this, we work as a multi-disciplinary team to ensure the very best expertise is shared and taught, through evidence-based approaches.

Our mission

Through a combination of specialised education, therapy and care, we aim to create a community of happy, independent, and confident communicators. Meath achieves this by supporting children with complex speech and language challenges to talk, learn and grow:

- Enabling each child to talk, understand and connect with the world through a combination of methods.
- Integrating specialist teaching, therapy and care to help children learn.
- Creating a nurturing environment where children can develop social skills, friendships and learning approaches – and grow up safe and happy.



Committee volunteer responsibilities

We want people to use their lived or professional experience to:

- Support staff who are undertaking busy and challenging roles
- Scrutinise our plans and performance
- Suggest new ideas
- Attend five to six meetings per year
- Discuss their perspectives on the topics on the agenda at the committee
- Suggest other topics the committee should consider, within its Terms of Reference
- Offer their expertise to staff outside of meetings (where possible)
- Suggest new organisations or people we can get involved in Speech and Language UK

What you will gain

This is a unique opportunity to use your experiences to help children to face the future with confidence.

You will also get valuable experience of sitting on a committee of a national charity and taking key decisions. This is particularly helpful if you want to be a Trustee or lead a charity in the future.

You will also expand your network, meeting people with experience in business, education and research/academia as well as charities.

You will not get paid. But we can cover reasonable expenses to help you to attend meetings and visit the schools.

To help committee volunteers carry out their roles, we will:

- Provide information about Speech and Language UK, our current successes and challenges, which we will talk through during an introductory session
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- Link each committee volunteer with a Speech and Language Trustee who will act as a buddy. Each co-optee/buddy pair will meet them either face to face or in person (as you both choose) in early 2024. You will be able to find out more about the charity from them. Before each committee meeting, they will offer support with preparing for the meeting and discuss any key issues with you.

Although these are unpaid, voluntary positions, Speech and Language UK can cover reasonable travel costs if needed to enable you to attend committee meetings.

How to apply

To apply, please email us on HR@speechandlanguage.org.uk by **9am, Monday 13th May 2024**

- i. An **explanation** of why you would like to be a committee volunteer and a brief description of the skills, lived experience and/or knowledge you would bring to the charity (we are happy to receive in written or video form send over via WeTransfer). If you have a CV or a link to a LinkedIn profile, you are welcome to email that to us as well.
- ii. A completed **recruitment monitoring form** (optional). The form can be accessed [here](#). If you complete a monitoring form, we will separate it from your application and it will be used to help us monitor our recruitment practices.

Please get in touch with us on HR@speechandlanguage.org.uk if you would like some support with your application or if you need us to adapt the application process for any reason including disability.

We will email you by 15 May 2023 to let you know if you have been shortlisted.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with us via Zoom in the week beginning 20 May 2024.

This meeting will be a chance for you to ask us questions, find out more about the charity and what being a co-opted committee member involves. We would also like to find out more about your experience and the reasons why you are interested in becoming a co-opted member.

We will contact you by 30 May 2024 to let you know if your application has been successful.

Further information

To find out more, please:

- Look at our website at <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/>
- Look at Schools websites: <https://www.meathschool.org.uk/> and <https://www.dawnhouseschool.org.uk/>
- Contact us for an informal chat about the role and our charity on Neil.Maslen@speechandlanguage.org.uk (Neil Maslen, Director of Education)





Speech and Language UK

Unit A The Cube Building, 17-21 Wenlock Road, London, N1 7GT

| Tel: 020 7843 2510 | speechandlanguage.org.uk

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