
PRESTON
HEDGES
TRUST
FUN
CREATIVITY
ACHIEVEMENT
Making a difference **together**
Join our Northampton Community Board
Your experience. Your ideas. Your community.
prestonhedgestrust.org

WELCOME

Exceptional educational experiences

Welcome to Preston Hedges Trust. We are delighted to introduce our family of schools and the shared ambition that brings us together: giving every child exceptional educational experiences and the best possible start in life.

Fun, Creativity and Achievement are at the heart of everything we do. We have high expectations for all our schools and want every child, whatever their needs or starting point, to achieve their full potential through an inclusive, bespoke curriculum.

We believe education should be full of possibility. Through creative teaching, inspiring environments and brilliant schemes of learning, children develop the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to make the most of every opportunity. Alongside academic ambition and achievement, we place great importance on nurturing a strong social and moral conscience, helping children become tolerant and compassionate global citizens, grounded in a strong sense of belonging to their communities.

Each of our schools has its own distinct character, strengths and heritage, and we are passionate about helping them build on what makes them special. For schools, being part of our Trust brings opportunities to share ideas, expertise and experience, while retaining the close-knit feel of a family of schools, where connections are strong and support feels personal.

Strong schools are built on strong connections with the families and communities around them. As a Trust we are committed to working alongside parents, local organisations and services, building partnerships that make a real difference to children, young people and families. Our new Northampton and Milton Keynes Community Boards are an important part of this commitment, bringing together local voices, knowledge and experience to help shape priorities and strengthen the support available in each community.

PAUL WATSON
Chief Executive Officer

MIKE BRINKLEY
Chair of Trust



ABOUT US

A shared commitment to excellence

Preston Hedges Trust is a growing family of seven schools across Northampton and Milton Keynes.

Our highly skilled, creative and committed teaching staff, supported by brilliant partners and colleagues, work hard to deliver continuous improvement in every school, wherever they are on their individual journey. Working as One Team, we share ideas, spread best practice, support and constructively challenge one another to bring out our very best.



Our pupils' exceptional achievements reflect the high expectations, expertise and teamwork that underpin everything we do. Our Trust is ranked among the top 2% of primary school trusts nationally and is the highest-performing Trust in Northampton and Milton Keynes. Our children consistently achieve results well above national averages, including particularly strong outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. This reflects our shared commitment to giving every child the very best opportunities to succeed.

As a relationships-based organisation, we know that people are our greatest asset. We attract and retain talented teachers and leaders who want to make a difference, engage and inspire children, and continue to develop their own knowledge, expertise and careers. We have high expectations of our people, but equally high expectations of ourselves to provide excellent professional development, training and support, giving colleagues at every stage the opportunity to grow and take on new challenges.

We believe that great schools are built on strong partnerships with the families and communities around them. We are committed to building lasting partnerships, working alongside parents, carers, local organisations and services to understand local needs and make a positive difference beyond the classroom.

Our new Northampton and Milton Keynes Community Boards are an important part of this commitment. Bringing together parents, community representatives and local partners, they create opportunities to share knowledge, experience and different perspectives, helping shape priorities that reflect what matters most in each community. Each Board will agree three to five local priorities, drawing on community insight alongside Trust-wide information. Through stronger relationships with organisations including the NHS, local authorities and community groups, we can bring people together around shared ambitions for children, young people and families.

Listening to families and communities is central to this approach. Community Listening Events and opportunities for parents to stand for election to their local Board will help ensure local voices are heard and play a meaningful part in shaping priorities and decisions.

Together, we are building on the strengths of our schools, developing new partnerships and creating opportunities to learn and grow. We believe that by working together, sharing our experience and drawing on the strengths of our wider communities, we can achieve more for every child and make a lasting difference to the places we serve.



LIKE-MINDED SCHOOLS

A partnership between home and school

Our Trust comprises seven like-minded schools, each with its own distinct character and strengths, working closely with their school communities to make a positive difference to the children and families they serve.

Alongside our four primary schools in Northampton, we have three schools in Milton Keynes.





PRESTON HEDGES

An outstanding school in the west of Northampton, Preston Hedges is founded on the philosophy of Fun, Creativity and Achievement, with a passion for providing every child with an exceptional start to their education. Guided by its ambition to empower the trailblazers of tomorrow, the school offers an engaging and creative curriculum.

Alongside strong academic foundations, children develop a social and moral conscience, learning to become confident, articulate individuals who think creatively, embrace new ideas and make a positive contribution to society. With a strong emphasis on character development and a wealth of opportunities across the curriculum, pupils are encouraged to discover their strengths, raise their aspirations and become trailblazers of thought and action.



PINEHAM BARNS

Surrounded by beautiful countryside, Pineham Barns offers a distinctive learning environment where the natural world plays an important part in the curriculum. Founded on the principles of Fun, Creativity and Achievement, the school champions creative and innovative learning opportunities, inspiring children to become happy, confident, inquisitive and lifelong learners.

With a clear ambition to empower the Difference Makers of the Future, Pineham Barns nurtures empathetic and aspirational individuals who celebrate diversity, challenge perceptions and make a positive contribution to society. Through an engaging curriculum, individualised learning and rich opportunities across dance, sport, drama and music, every child is encouraged to build confidence and fulfil their potential.



PARKLANDS

Parklands is a happy, welcoming and inclusive school where every child is encouraged to develop a passion for learning, grow in confidence and discover their strengths. Guided by its philosophy of giving children 'deep roots and strong wings', the school combines a strong sense of community with a commitment to recognising and nurturing every child as an individual.

Its exciting and innovative curriculum, alongside opportunities in the arts, sport and wider school life, helps children build self-belief, independence and aspiration.

Children are encouraged to embrace new experiences, pursue their ambitions and develop the confidence and curiosity to make a positive contribution to the world around them.



BUCKTON FIELDS

Buckton Fields encourages children to develop a deep appreciation of the natural world and their role as responsible global citizens. With a strong focus on learning beyond the classroom, the school inspires children to explore their surroundings, understand the world around them and recognise the difference they can make.

Particularly proud of its exceptional Early Years provision, Buckton Fields is committed to giving every child the very best start to their school journey. With Fun, Creativity and Achievement at the heart of its approach, the school provides an engaging and inspiring curriculum that nurtures curiosity, builds confidence and helps children develop into happy, resilient and responsible learners.

INTRODUCING OUR COMMUNITY BOARDS

A new way of working together

We're introducing a new way of working with our schools, families and communities, and wanted to share this with you.

Our two new Community Boards - the Northamptonshire Community Board and the Milton Keynes Community Board - will replace our previous Families in Partnership structure.

These new Boards are about strengthening how we work with local families and communities, while bringing together a wider range of voices and perspectives to help shape the best possible support for children and young people in your area.

What this means for you:

- **Working together across your community.** Your local Board will build strong relationships with families and local services, including the NHS, councils, and community groups, so support reaches beyond the classroom.
- **Decisions shaped by local needs.** The Board will look closely at what's happening in your school and community - using local insights alongside Trust-wide information - so priorities and actions reflect what matters most locally.
- **Clear, shared priorities.** Each year, the Board will agree a small number of priorities for the year ahead, based on what your school community needs, such as attendance, community engagement and family partnership.
- **More ways for your voice to be heard.** The Board will actively listen to parents and communities, ensuring your feedback helps shape future priorities and decisions.
- **A chance to get directly involved.** There will be opportunities for parents to stand for election to their local Community Board, with every school and community within the Trust.



INSIDE THE BOARDROOM

Making a difference together

Community Boards strengthen the connections between our schools, families and the communities they serve. They bring together people with a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people, ensuring that local voices, knowledge and experience help shape the work of the Trust.

With two Boards covering Northampton and Milton Keynes, we are creating an ambitious model of collaboration between schools, families and local organisations. Each Board will build partnerships, explore local needs and agree shared priorities, using community insight alongside Trust-wide information to help ensure our work reflects what matters most in each area.

The new Boards replace our previous Families in Partnership structure, building on this foundation and creating stronger opportunities for families and local communities to influence priorities, contribute to decisions and help shape the future of the Trust.



Who's around the table?

Each Community Board brings together people with different backgrounds and expertise, including elected and nominated parents, family support workers, educational leaders and Executive Principals. Membership is further strengthened by representatives from local businesses and community organisations, alongside professionals from health, policing, SEND services, local authorities, family hubs and children's centres.

This breadth of experience is important. By bringing together people who understand different aspects of family and community life, the Boards can develop a fuller picture of local needs and identify where working together can have the greatest impact.

What happens in the boardroom?

Each Board meets three times during the academic year. Meetings provide an opportunity for members to review progress, consider evidence and feedback, discuss local needs and agree priorities for their communities.

These priorities are reviewed throughout the year, with progress informed by community insight alongside Trust-wide information. They might include improving attendance, strengthening family partnerships or increasing community engagement.

Members monitor progress against these priorities, while also considering and scrutinising school performance, including attendance, safeguarding and outcomes, in the context of local circumstances. They are encouraged to ask questions, offer constructive challenge and share different perspectives, helping ensure that decisions and actions reflect what matters most to children and families.

The Boards' work also informs the Trust's wider thinking and strategy, ensuring that local knowledge and experience contribute to the direction of the organisation as a whole.

Beyond the boardroom

Being part of a Community Board isn't just about attending meetings. Members will also undertake three school visits each year, giving them the chance to see priorities in action and develop a deeper understanding of the schools and communities they serve.

Visits provide a chance to meet pupils and staff, engage with families and connect with local partners. Wherever possible, they will be aligned with school and community events, celebrations and engagement activities, helping members build meaningful connections and see the difference that collaborative working can make.

An annual Community Listening Event will also give parents, families and community members the chance to share their views, ask questions and help shape future priorities. The Boards will use this feedback to inform their discussions and share information about their work and agreed priorities.

Your voice matters

Parent representation is an important part of our Community Boards. Parents will have the opportunity to stand for election to their local Board, providing a direct route for families to contribute to discussions and help shape decisions. Every school and community within the Trust will have representation on its local Board.

Alongside this, a dedicated Local Authority and Community Governor will help maintain links with local and national policy, the Local Authority and Department for Education, and represent the Board at local briefings.

The principles that guide us

Our approach to community governance reflects the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles. These provide an important framework for those contributing to public life:

- **Selflessness** - acting in the public interest.
- **Integrity** - avoiding obligations to individuals or organisations that could influence decisions.
- **Objectivity** - making decisions fairly, on merit and using evidence.
- **Accountability** - being accountable for decisions and actions.
- **Openness** - acting and taking decisions transparently.
- **Honesty** - being truthful.
- **Leadership** - demonstrating these principles through our own behaviour and setting a positive example.

Working together for our communities

Our Community Boards are about more than governance. They are about listening to local voices, sharing knowledge and experience, and building stronger connections between our schools and the people around them.

By working together across schools, families, services and community organisations, we can achieve more than we could alone and make a lasting difference to children, young people and families.

THE ROLE AND HOW TO PUT YOURSELF FORWARD



Our Community Boards bring together people with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, all with a shared commitment to making a positive difference for local children, families and communities.

We're keen to hear from parents and carers with children at our schools, family support workers, education professionals and leaders, and people involved in local businesses and community organisations. We'd also love to hear from those working in health, policing, SEND services, local authorities, family hubs and children's centres.

You don't need previous experience of governance to get involved. What matters is that you care about your community, are willing to listen, share your ideas and work with others. Whether you bring professional expertise, personal experience or a strong connection with local families, your perspective is valuable.

As a Community Board member, you'll help identify local priorities, consider how our schools are performing, build relationships with local organisations and contribute to discussions about how we can improve support for children, young people and families.

How to put yourself forward

If you'd like to be part of your local Community Board, we'd love to hear from you. Simply send us either:

- A short written summary of no more than **150 words**; or
- A short video, filmed in portrait format and no longer than **60 seconds**.

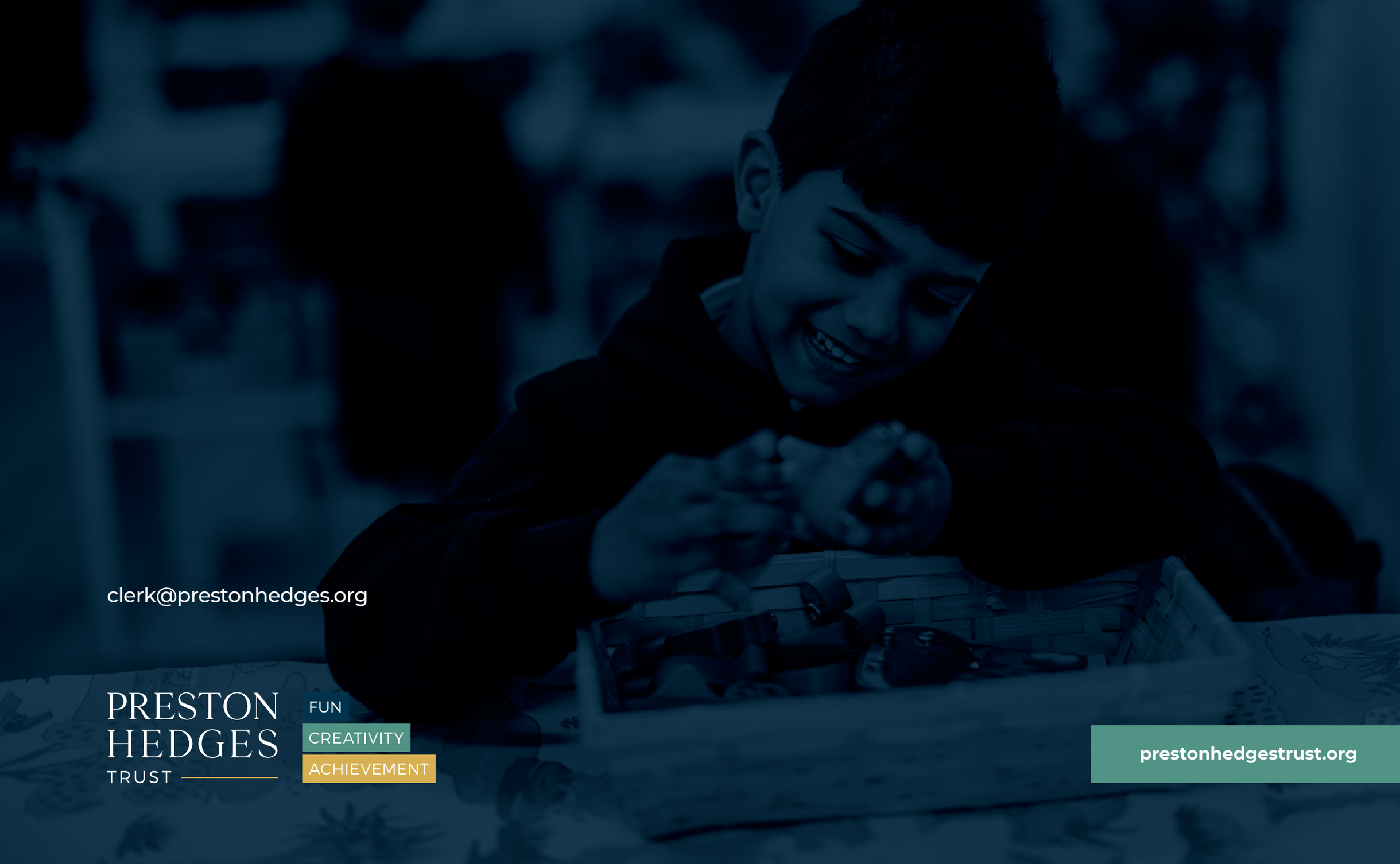
In your submission, please tell us:

1. **Why you're standing:** What interests you about becoming a Community Board member?
2. **What you bring:** What experience, knowledge or perspective would you contribute?
3. **Your community:** What's one thing you'd like to develop or improve in your community?

All submissions will be carefully reviewed, and everyone who applies will receive a response. Where applicants are parents or carers, their submissions will be put forward for a parent vote, giving families the opportunity to elect their representative to the Community Board.

Application deadline: 4 December

Please send your submission to clerk@prestonhedges.org
We look forward to hearing from you.



clerk@prestonhedges.org

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