



# **SYMPHONY**

## **SCHOOLS**

**BECOMING AN  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEMBER**

# WHY WAS SYMPHONY SCHOOLS CREATED?

**It is our belief that all young people should be afforded the opportunity of a level playing field in order for them to further fulfil their purpose and grow into all God has called them to be. Symphony Schools aims to bridge the gap between those that society has deemed it a rarity to excel and those who are more privileged.**

We aim to be the academic leverage that supports young black men in maximising their potential, by creating opportunities for them and generations ahead to achieve abundantly more than they could think or imagine. Not only will young black boys be exposed to more opportunities, but this initiative will also allow afro-Caribbean teachers to rise to the occasion.

Together we believe that we will not only see a significant improvement in the GCSE attainment of our students, we also see ourselves leading them onto opportunities and experiences that will better their lives, career and futures in general.

‘Researchers have found that children from particular post codes and low financial backgrounds are persistently doing worse than their peers; achieving lower grades at school and

progressing at a much lower rate into university. Within these figures, boys from lower income backgrounds perform much worse than girls. Other obstacles, such as increasing class sizes, demanding curriculums and reduced resources, have left a further gap where many pupils, especially young black men, are less likely to gain top grades’.

Through Symphony Schools, we want to see an increase in the achievement of young black men in higher education, college and university. We aim to encourage young black men to have a stronger presence within their families, actively supporting the lowering of rates of violence and crime that prevail in our communities and becoming a beacon in society. We aim to be a part of the growth of strong, educated, socially aware black men.






# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

**The role of the Advisory Board is to both contribute and ensure high standards of achievement are being kept and maintained within Symphony Schools by:**

- 1.** Upholding the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- 2.** Holding the Principle/CEO to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
- 3.** Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is both well spent and accounted for.

This role can be quite demanding, but it is a very rewarding role to be in. You would be expected to spend between 5 - 10 days a year on your governing responsibilities.

## **Responsibilities will include:**

-  Undertaking training in the role; all nominated board members are required to complete induction training.
-  Attending meetings of the governing body of Symphony Schools; this will usually be outside of school hours.
-  Reading reports, papers and keeping up to date on the progress that the school is making.
-  Visiting the school from time to time during the tutoring sessions.
-  Finance and budgeting oversight.

All Advisory Board members of Symphony Schools will be expected to have a strong commitment to the role and to improving the overall outcomes for our students. Be able to question and analyse what is taking place within the school. In addition it is desirable that potential members possess the willingness to learn and have great inter-personal skills. We would expect our board members to have appropriate levels of literacy in English and sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data.

# ELIGIBILITY

## In order for you to be eligible to sit on the Advisory Board:

- ▶ You must be over 18.
- ▶ You are expected to be able to work together as a team in the best interests of the students attending the school.
- ▶ Every board member is expected to contribute to the conduct of school business and every board member can expect to learn something new.
- ▶ You do not need to have previous experience or qualifications as training of key roles and responsibilities will be provided.
- ▶ You will need to be enthusiastic, show commitment, have the ability to work in a team and a desire to ensure our students receive the best possible education available to them.
- ▶ You do not need to be an educational expert but should be supportive and work within the ethos of Symphony Schools.

## You are unable to sit on the Advisory Board if:

- ▶ You already hold a governor post within mainstream education.
- ▶ You are adjudged bankrupt or under a composition arrangement with your creditors or you are subject to a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order (BRO).
- ▶ You are applying for the post and have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to Symphony Schools.
- ▶ You have been convicted within the previous 5 years or any time thereafter of any offence with a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine;
- ▶ You are applying for a post in a school which is registered as a charity and you are disqualified under Article 86 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008 from being a trustee of that charity.
- ▶ A parent of a student attending Symphony Schools.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the role of an Advisory Board member, please apply using our volunteer application form on our website. **Please make sure you specify that you are applying for the Advisory Board.**

[wearesymphony.co/schools/volunteer](https://wearesymphony.co/schools/volunteer)

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Website: [wearesymphony.co/schools](https://wearesymphony.co/schools)

Email: [hello@wearesymphony.co](mailto:hello@wearesymphony.co)