

**Appointment of**

# **Governor**

February 2026 | Code: RBQCB



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# 01 Welcome



## Dear Candidate,

It is a profound privilege to work with the Portal Trust Board, our staff team, and our expert external advisers to lead this unique and close-knit charity. At the heart of our work is a simple yet powerful guiding principle: to ensure all young people in London, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have access to high-quality educational opportunities. This philosophy has led us to support a wide diversity of projects that reflect the inclusivity and ambition defining The Portal Trust.

We are committed to making sure our grant making is responsive to the shifting challenges and opportunities facing London's young people. We will be launching a new Grants Strategy in early 2026, which will define our priorities for the rest of the decade. We have also decided to strengthen our voice as an advocate for our beneficiaries, and to find new ways to connect with and learn from the young Londoners we exist to serve.

While we take great pride in all we have accomplished, we recognise that there is still much work to be done. The past few years have been a time of learning and growth, and we move forward stronger than ever. It is with this in mind that we are looking forward to welcoming new Governors to our Board. We are

looking for individuals who share our commitment to London's youth and who will work with us as we embrace new opportunities and partnerships that will drive our collective progress and shape the future.

We thank you in advance for your interest in us and for the time you commit to making this application.

Yours sincerely,

**Sophie Fernandes**



# 02 We are The Portal Trust

**We believe every young person should have a fair opportunity to find and fulfil their potential.**

As one of London's leading educational charities, our mission is to fund and support organisations, groups and individuals that provide educational opportunities for young people in the capital.

## WHAT WE DO

**We enable young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged or low-income backgrounds, to access educational opportunities.**

### **Creating Opportunities. Fulfilling Potential.**

We support organisations making a positive impact and we give individual young people the funding they need to fulfil their potential.

We're as passionate about their success as they are – and do all we can to help them achieve their goals.



### **Making a real difference**

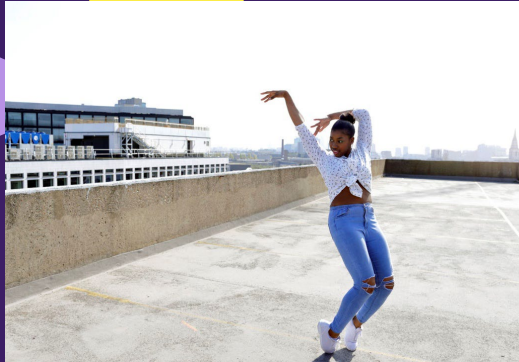
Over the last six years, we've provided over £34m in direct funding and in-kind support for individuals and projects at every level of education.

The area we work in consists of the 13 inner London boroughs and the City of London. We've built close and successful relationships with many community organisations in our core area, but we're always looking to forge new links and support new initiatives.

### **Your journey starts here**

We're a friendly, supportive charity with a strong commitment to helping provide opportunities to young people facing disadvantage. We believe that by staying open to new possibilities, we can achieve great things.

# 03 Our Values



The Portal Trust's work is rooted in its historical foundation and guided by a commitment to educational opportunity for all. While the Trust maintains its link to the Church of England such as the Aldgate School and Stepney All Saints Secondary School and funding projects aligned with this ethos – it also supports projects of all faiths and none, and our approach has grown to reflect the diversity and complexity of life for young Londoners today.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) are at the heart of what we

do. We support young people from a wide range of backgrounds, particularly those who are underrepresented or face barriers to education and opportunity. We know that a young person's background – whether that's to do with race, disability, religion, gender identity, or something else – shouldn't limit their potential. That's why we back projects that raise aspirations, improve access, and help young people build the futures they want. We're also focused on making thoughtful, inclusive decisions. Listening to various voices and experiences helps us see things more clearly and respond in ways that make a difference. We believe that when bringing together different perspectives stronger ideas, and better outcomes are the result, which ultimately achieves more impact for the communities we serve.

## We are

### Inclusive



We believe that all young people in London, but particularly those with experience of disadvantage, should have access to a wide range of educational opportunities.

### Innovative



We know that to have a positive impact on young lives, we need to go beyond traditional education, and we aren't afraid to take chances. We champion new and innovative approaches to addressing needs and providing support.

### Optimistic



We look for the positive in every situation and see potential where others may not. By staying open to new possibilities, we can achieve great things.

### Approachable



We always want to hear about great ideas and initiatives for young people. If you have a great plan and the skills to put it into action but need funding to get it off the ground, we'd love to hear about it.

# 04 Partnerships and Collaboration



Argoed Lwyd Outdoor Education Centre

Our focus is on breaking down barriers, and we do this under six strategic themes. We work directly with organisations and individuals, and we also fund research initiatives, host annual lectures, and we offer in-kind grants, which provide rent-free educational space in one of the world's most expensive cities.

The area we work in consists of the 13 inner London Boroughs and the City of London. We've built close and successful relationships with many community organisations, educational institutions and charities in our core area.

## 1. Bursaries

Through our bursary provision we aim to create fair, inclusive pathways for young people from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue further and higher education. The Portal Trust has awarded a total of £203,000 over the last six years to 46 students who applied directly to us. In addition to individual support, we have collaborated with various organisations, providing bursaries and scholarships of around £1.5 million over the past six years. From primary and secondary schools to universities, these partnerships ensure that students requiring support receive the assistance they need to excel. Beyond traditional academic pathways, we fund bursaries designed to support young people in other enriching experiences, covering everything from music lessons, to internships and apprenticeships.

## 2. Partnerships

Portal Trust partners. We have historical connections to all of our partners who work across all levels of education. This means providing financial support for essential capital and maintenance costs – beyond what the state covers – and investing in the enrichment and holistic

development of the schools' students. Some grants are large for example we are Sole Trustee of Stepney All Saints Secondary School and The Aldgate School in London. Stepney All Saints Church of England Secondary School is rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is a vibrant school serving a multi-faith community in the heart of Stepney. The school community includes over 1,500 students aged 11 to 19. The Aldgate School is located in the heart of London. It is known for providing exceptional education in a supportive and inclusive environment. Established over 300 years ago, it is the only state-maintained primary school in the City of London and is rated as Outstanding by Ofsted.

We also work closely with other organisations including, London College of Fashion, Bayes Business School, University of East London, Argoed Lwyd Outdoor Education Centre, The Young V&A, London Metropolitan University, Migration Museum and the Libraries for Primaries Programme.

# 05 Our work

## Creating Opportunities. Fulfilling Potential.

### 3. New initiatives

At the Portal Trust, we support educational projects that equip young people to thrive in all aspects of life, emphasising their holistic development rather than focusing solely on academic achievement.

The aim of our New Initiatives work is to influence and improve education policy and practice with a direct impact on inner London students from disadvantaged backgrounds and with potential for influence at scale.

We are delighted to fund the work with a wide range of organisations from the National Literacy Trust, to The Unicorn Theatre to The Migration Museum.

The New Initiatives priority embodies our commitment to discovering and supporting pioneering ideas with the potential to reshape education and learning in London. It reflects the dual focus of our mission: driving meaningful change and offering tailored, thoughtful support to those we fund.

### 4. Prison Education

Our aim for this area of our work is reduced offending through education and initiatives that promote employability.

Working with a range of organisations we want to make sure that young people who have found themselves in the prison system gain qualifications and skills they need to re-enter society, and that re-offending rates for the young people accessing the projects we support are reduced.

### 5. Truancy, exclusion and behaviour management

The aim of this strand of our work is to encourage and support children and young people's attainment through initiatives that help them engage with, and stay in, education. Through our grants, we work with schools, charities and community organisations to develop innovative approaches that keep young people engaged in learning, support their emotional and behavioural development, and reduce the risks of exclusion. We aim to help young people overcome barriers and thrive inside and outside the classroom by creating environments that nurture resilience, positive behaviour and a sense of belonging.

### 6. Widening Participation

We believe that every young person, regardless of their background, should have the opportunity to access the

education and career pathways that support them to reach their full potential. Through our grants, we address the barriers disproportionately affecting disadvantaged young people, such as limited access to resources, guidance, and opportunities. By working with partners, we create innovative and supportive programmes that inspire ambition, build skills, and open doors to higher education, vocational training and meaningful employment.



# 06 Our Impact



Over  
**200,000**

young people and children have been reached by our grant giving

Over the last six years, we've awarded around £34 million in direct and indirect grants. Here's how we did it:



**£14m**

in direct funding to individuals and projects across our borough



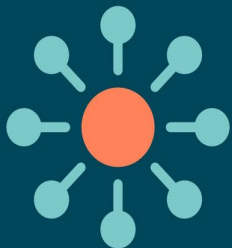
**Boroughs**

Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Lambeth are the three boroughs with the most awarded grants

Over  
**£20m**



in-kind donations have been awarded since 2018



**150+**

organisations have been awarded grants since 2018

**46**



students, who have directly applied to us, have been awarded to a total of £203,000 since 2018

# 07 Our People

The Governors of The Portal Trust provide strategic leadership and oversight, ensuring the charity remains true to its mission of supporting education and social mobility. Drawing from diverse professional backgrounds, they guide decision-making, governance, and long-term planning, helping to maximise the Trust's impact on the communities it serves. The Trust is overseen by [12 voluntary governors](#). Our Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and draw upon their experiences in education, finance, legal services and beyond.

Our day-to-day work is managed by a small, dedicated team of ten staff, led by our CEO Richard Foley.

In addition, we have [4 Ambassadors](#) and [5 Special Advisers](#), who give their time freely to help spread the word about our work and advise us on best practice.

We're a member of the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) and London Funders.

We're proud to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer and a Living Wage Funder.



# 08 The role of Governor

## Purpose of position

The new Governors will be expected to provide leadership to the organisation in close co-operation with other members of the Board, the Chief Executive and the wider team. Ensuring that all involved remain focused on achieving the Trust's mission within its values and ethos.

## Principal Responsibilities

- To be personally and visibly in support of The Portal Trust's Mission and Values.
- To contribute to setting the strategic direction and policies of the organisation. Monitoring performance in meeting plans and key objectives.
- To regularly attend Board meetings, sub-committee meetings and away days and if unable to attend then to provide comments on the papers to the Chair and/or questions to the Chief Executive to provide answers.
- To serve on one or more working groups or committees, as desired or invited.
- To ensure that management work effectively within a framework of clearly stated organisational strategies and policies.
- To ensure risk management is effective and appropriate.
- To ensure financial stewardship and regulatory compliance.
- To promote positive and supportive relationships between The Portal Trust and the other organisations with whom we work.
- To be fully committed to our values of equity, diversity and inclusion.

## Values

It is a requirement of all Governors to:

- be fully aligned to our values.
- be able to demonstrate strong ethical leadership.
- be committed to supporting great ideas that empower young people in London to discover their full potential.

To complement the mix of skills of our existing Governors and to further strengthen the Board in areas of key relevance, we would particularly welcome applications from those with experience who are currently teaching in the State-Sector.

These are voluntary roles with reasonable expenses paid.

Board meetings are held in person in London during the daytime.

Governors can join Board and Committee meetings online however the preference is for in-person, so they are able to vote.

The term of office is for a period of five years.

# 09 Terms of Appointment

## Time Commitment

The time commitment required consists of four Portal Trust Board meetings a year.

Each Governor will also be asked to sit as a member of one of our five committees which meet a maximum of three times a year.

In all we expect this to be a 10 day commitment a year which includes attending a Board Away Day (with an overnight stay), external functions and for reading and preparing for meetings.

Governors are also actively encouraged to visit our schools and meet with our partners so that they can gain first hand knowledge of the work we do.

The Board meets in January, April, July and November.

Please find the link to the Governors' page [here](#).

## Process

Interviews with Saxton Bampfylde will take place w/c 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, with the following panel interview date scheduled for:

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (in-person)

## Due diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.



# 10 How to Apply

**Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as partner and advisor to The Portal Trust on this appointment.**

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at **roles.saxbam.com** using code **RBQCB**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

## **GDPR personal data notice**

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

