

Board of Trustees Opportunity – Further Education Specialist

The Saturday Club Trust is seeking a new Board member with expertise in the further education (FE) sector to support our mission to expand the National Saturday Club programme and give more young people the opportunity to take part in extracurricular educational activities. This is an exciting opportunity for a compelling FE leader to help steer a highly respected nationwide charity to reach more young people from underserved backgrounds and expand its provision.

The National Saturday Club has an ambitious growth strategy for 2025–2028, aiming to expand its network from 130 Clubs in 2024–25 to 240 Clubs by 2028. One-third of Clubs are delivered within FE settings, providing transformative creative and educational experiences for young people. The FE sector is intrinsic to this expansion, with FE colleges often located in areas where many young people lack access to extracurricular educational opportunities and activities. This Board role will help inform this growth by strengthening partnerships with FE colleges and supporting the programme's continued success in delivering high-quality educational experiences.

About the National Saturday Club

The Saturday Club Trust is an independent charity set up in 2016 to take over the development of the National Saturday Club network from The Sorrell Foundation. The programme was established in 2009 by Sir John and Lady Sorrell CBE. By making all Saturday Clubs free with no exams, the year-long programme encourages young people from all backgrounds to get involved in a unique process of discovery and learning.

The National Saturday Club gives 13–16-year-olds nationwide a unique opportunity to study subjects they love, on a Saturday at their local university, FE college or cultural institution. Club members attend weekly Saturday classes led by expert tutors in their local community and take part in national events throughout the year. A remarkable national network of further education, higher education, the cultural sector, and industry work in partnership to deliver these enriching extracurricular activities.

With a particular focus on engaging young people from under-represented backgrounds, the National Saturday Club's established model has proven impact. The programme offers a transformational opportunity to build versatile and creative skills, develop confidence and discover pathways to further study and future careers.

The Board of Trustees and the Saturday Club Trust are ambitious for the future and focused on ensuring that young people from all backgrounds and communities have access to the programme. Through the establishment of new Club locations, and by continually reviewing and removing barriers to participation, the Trust will continue to develop the National Saturday Club programme to offer this opportunity to more young people across the UK.

The Saturday Club Trust receives public funding from the Department for Education and the National Lottery through Arts Council England. It is also supported by DCMS, the British Film Institute, Garfield Weston, the British Fashion Council, the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, the Clore Duffield Foundation and industry partners.

The National Saturday Club prioritises the involvement of young people and the national network of educators in its organisational development through the Tutors' Advisory Group and Youth Board of alumni. The Board of Trustees is committed to this effort and seeks to further integrate the perspectives of its network of partners and beneficiaries, involving diverse voices in decision-making processes to ensure the organisation's continued growth and success.

Key Attributes and Experience:

The successful appointee will have substantial leadership experience in the FE sector and be able to provide strategic insight into the sector, informing policy and enhancing sector engagement. You will have knowledge of the national FE educational landscape and its intersection with creative education and skills development alongside a strong understanding of the barriers to engagement facing young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds and underserved or under-represented communities.

Familiarity with the National Saturday Club programme, ideally coming from an institution which delivers the programme already, would be an asset but is not a pre-requisite. You will have a commitment to advocating for equitable access to extracurricular and non-formal educational opportunities for young people and recognise the value of such educational approaches.

As a member of the Board of Trustees you will have a demonstrable commitment to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion and either have experience in charity governance and/or a willingness to learn and engage fully in a trustee role. As a member of the Board, strong communication and networking skills will be an asset, with the ability to build and sustain strategic relationships.

Key Responsibilities:

Sector expertise:

- Provide insight into the on-the-ground challenges and opportunities facing the FE sector.
- Advise on the strategic national landscape of the FE sector, identifying policy, trends, risks and opportunities to support the National Saturday Club's growth and impact.
- Offer a deep understanding of the experiences of young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds and underserved or under-represented communities, ensuring their needs are central to decision-making.

Governance and oversight:

- Fulfil the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a charity trustee, including ensuring the charity complies with its governing document, charity law, and other regulations.
- Advise on the development of strategic plans, policies, and objectives, with a focus on sustainability and impact.

Advocacy and networks:

- Leverage your networks and relationships within the FE sector to advocate for the National Saturday Club and foster new partnerships, particularly with FE colleges.
- Support the charity in positioning itself as a valuable partner within the FE sector, contributing to its long-term growth and the expansion of its Clubs.
- Work collaboratively with other Board members and the executive team to ensure the charity achieves its mission and vision.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity, demonstrating a commitment to its values and ethos.

Time commitment:

- Quarterly Board meetings, typically held in London or occasionally virtually.
- Participation in one or more subcommittees or working groups, as needed.
- Occasional attendance at key events to represent the charity.
- This is a voluntary position; reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

How to apply

To express your interest, please submit your CV and a brief covering letter outlining your suitability for the role, highlighting your expertise in the FE sector, your understanding of the lived experiences of young people from underserved backgrounds, and your interest in supporting the National Saturday Club's mission and expansion to jobs@saturday-club.org and complete our anonymous [Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form](#). The deadline for applications is **Monday 3 February at 10.00** with the aim of holding interviews with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Sir Nigel Carrington, and the Chief Executive, Lucy Kennedy, the following week.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The Saturday Club Trust strives to be an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. We are keen to look for people who reflect the diversity of the country today, to help us shape and change the arts, cultural and education sectors and make them more relevant to the young people, communities and places with which we work. Disabled people, those from a global majority background and LGBTQ+ colleagues are under-represented in our industry, and we are committed to addressing this under-representation and welcome applicants from these backgrounds, identities and experiences.

Environmental responsibility

We take our role in trying to minimise our impact on the environment seriously and recognise the importance of championing and influencing change within our organisation, through partner collaboration and across all our activities.

Data Protection

All applications will be processed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). All applications will be held for a period of six months for the purposes of consideration for future roles, after which point they will be securely destroyed. If you do not wish for your application to be held for this duration, then please notify us by emailing: operations@saturday-club.org

The Saturday Club Trust is a UK-registered charity (no 1165362) and company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (no 09559467).