

Trustee Recruitment Pack 2022



Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT)

Help us **inspire** the next generation to protect our climate, create vaccines and explore the universe.

Science plays a hugely important role in all our lives: it builds our knowledge and helps us solve global problems. The Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) believes it is vital that children are engaged and inspired by science from an early age. We want to draw on their natural curiosity to help them explore, understand and ask questions about the world around them. Scientific skills and knowledge are essential for every child, whether or not they become a scientist, engineer or medic.

We put teachers at the **heart** of everything we do.

Our vision is to see excellent teaching of science in every primary classroom in the UK. This is a challenging task, but the PSTT is already making great strides towards it. We've built a Primary Science Teacher College of over 200 outstanding teachers, each helping to shape and influence science teaching across the UK. We work with local clusters of schools in 28 areas, and our Regional Mentors have supported more than 3,000 additional schools. We also work closely with teachers to produce great resources that improve how science is taught and planned.

Please see p.4-8 for further details of our work.

Will you help us take the next steps towards our **vision**?

We need several new people to join our board of trustees. Trustees lead a charity and decide how it is run, and we're looking for people with a range of life experiences and skills who will bring passion and enthusiasm to this work (see p.9).

We strongly believe that a truly inclusive and diverse board of trustees, each with their own unique life experience, viewpoint and skillset, can come together and collectively use the power of their differences to make a real impact.

We therefore particularly welcome applications from people of colour, people of all ages, people with disabilities, and from across the UK's regions and nations.

Join Our Board of Trustees



Our board of trustees has ultimate responsibility for the PSTT's strategy, activities and assets. We currently have eight trustees.

During 2022, we're looking for at least four new trustees and we hope that, between them, they will help us with experience in the following areas. You may have skills in one or more of these areas, or may be able to add value to the PSTT in other ways.

- Influencing governments – we want to promote the critical role of science in primary education across the four nations of the UK
- Digital content – we need to use all the right tools to support more teachers, more effectively than ever before
- Marketing – help us generate interest and engagement in our awards, resources and support networks
- Primary schools – help us benefit from your recent experience as a headteacher, leader, practitioner or governor in primary education
- Finance – with one of our charity accounting experts completing her trusteeship, it's important that we sustain best practice in overseeing the PSTT's finances

What is vital is that you can contribute your time, knowledge and ideas to help us achieve our goals.

If your application is successful, we will appoint you for an initial term of 4 years. You will then be eligible for one further term, so a maximum of 8 years on the Board is possible.

The Board meets four times a year, usually in London or Bristol, with the option to join remotely. We also hold an annual strategy away day and there are opportunities for trustees to sit on sub-committees, working groups and project boards. Trustees are unpaid, but we cover expenses, including travel and childcare costs.

See pstt.org.uk/who-we-are/our-team for information about our current trustees and staff.

Application and selection process

1. Before you apply, please read the trustee role description and requirements on p.9. You are welcome to arrange an informal chat with our Chair or a current trustee. To do so, please email Wendy Woodsford, our Senior Office Administrator: wendy.woodsford@pstt.org.uk

2. To apply, complete our application form at pstt.org.uk/trustee-recruitment-2022. This includes a statement outlining why you would like to join our board of trustees, and how your skills and experience fit the role description. You may alternatively record this statement as a video clip. If you'd like to be considered for our first intake of new trustees in 2022, please ensure your application reaches us by 18 July. Please don't send us a CV or covering letter.

3. After assessing all applications, we will arrange a conversation on Teams/Zoom with each shortlisted candidate. This will enable us to discuss in more detail what you would bring to the role of trustee and what the role could offer you.

4. We will inform candidates of our decisions by email. You are welcome to seek feedback on your application.

5. While the complete process may take us through the summer, we hope our first new trustees will start with us in September.

Please apply to join us, or contact Wendy Woodsford to arrange a chat with an existing trustee about what this role involves.

Many thanks for your interest in PSTT.

Fred Young MBE, Chair of Trustees
Martin Pollard, Chief Executive Officer

What we do

We have a clear vision: we want to see excellent science teaching in every primary classroom in the UK. To work towards that vision, we currently employ 28 staff and spend £1.5-£2 million on the PSTT's activities each year.

These pages provide more detail about our work.

Find out more about our vision, strategy and history here: pstt.org.uk/who-we-are.

Primary Science Teacher Awards

Recognising excellence in primary science teaching



Each year, we organise the Primary Science Teacher Awards (PSTAs) – celebrating amazing science teaching across the UK.

Teachers who are doing incredible work, raising standards, excelling in tough conditions and going 'above and beyond' deserve to be celebrated. With the PSTAs, we do just that – we celebrate, reward and provide stimulus and opportunities for deserving teachers.

Our award winners are not only outstanding practitioners in their own classrooms. They also support and develop colleagues in their own schools and others – locally, regionally or nationally.

"Since winning the Primary Science Teacher Award in 2010 life has changed enormously. I thought I had a rich and full career before, but it has been a wonderful journey since."

Recognising the importance of our focus on teachers' achievements, the PSTAs are supported by the Royal Society, the Association for Science Education and TTS Group. Individual awards are endorsed by the Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Society of Biology, Institute of Physics, Geological Society, Royal Meteorological Society, Ogden Trust, SHINE Foundation, Comino Foundation and Bristol ChemLabS.



Primary Science Teacher College

Our unique UK-wide network of over 200 award-winning primary science teachers

Each of our PSTA winners automatically becomes a Fellow of the Primary Science Teacher College, which is at the heart of our vision.

We currently invest over £500,000 each year in the College. Fellows can use this funding for activities beyond what is normally available from their school budget. They can develop science education in their own school or a group of schools, create and trial teaching resources, or design and run projects locally. They can also access professional development for themselves. Although our College is usually a 'virtual' one, we bring Fellows together once a year for a two-day, in-person conference.

Fellows share ideas and resources through our Area Mentors. Mentors provide local support and organise network meetings to disseminate new developments in science teaching.

"Being a Fellow of the College is an amazing privilege...I have the opportunity to directly impact and help shape the face of science education."

Many Fellows also share their expertise by presenting CPD courses through their school networks and other local and national events. Fellows have worked with universities and other organisations to develop a wide range of primary science resources, including many of those on the PSTT's website.

Cluster Programme

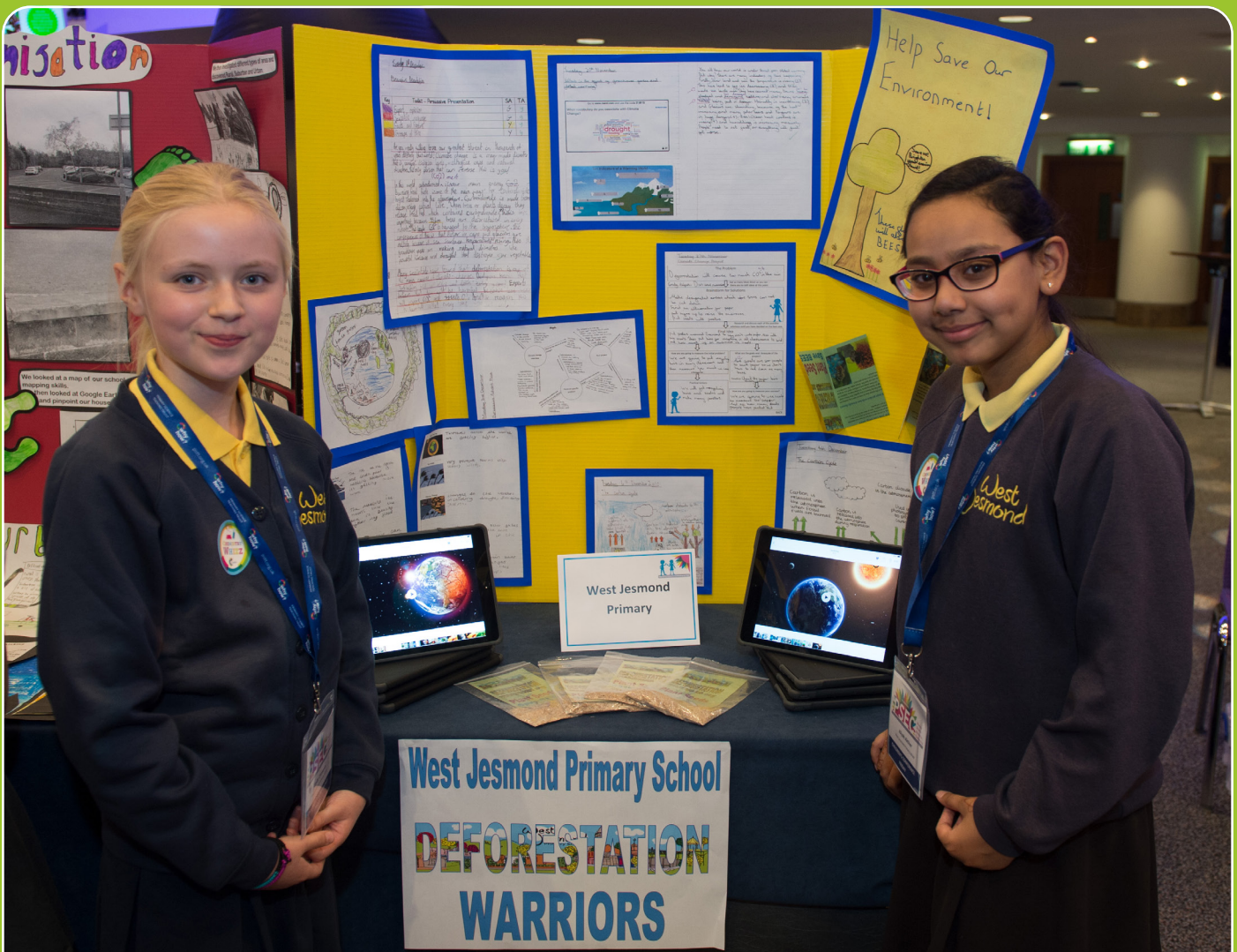
Supporting schools to collaborate in communities of practice

We encourage schools to come together as clusters: local networks of schools which work together and meet regularly to develop their science teaching. Currently, we provide advice and financial support to more than 200 schools across 28 clusters.

We work with each cluster for 5 years, helping to create sustainable networks that headteachers will want to continue supporting when our funding finishes. During 2022, our first cohort of clusters will complete their 5-year programme and will transition to full independence.

“Our cluster of primary schools has really benefitted from PSTT support, from kit boxes to CPD training. Most of all we have been able to support each other and have seen our confidence grow.”

Some clusters have been founded specifically with the PSTT's support, while others build on existing networks in other subjects. In Scotland, we reach established local clusters by working with the educational charity SSERC.



Research & Resources

We work with universities and other partners across the UK to drive research and development in primary science, and to support collaboration between researchers and teachers. Our Fellows are central to these activities.

We have worked with and supported partners to develop useful tools for teachers, including:

- Teacher Assessment in Primary Science (TAPS)
- Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)
- Primary Science Capital: A Whole School Teaching Approach
- Thinking, Doing, Talking Science

Many of our resources are available free of charge through our website, and we partner with TTS Group to produce commercial publications.

We are also working with more than 200 students through a new project to support Initial Teacher Education in primary science.



Regional Mentor Programme

Supporting primary science leaders beyond the PSTT College of Fellows

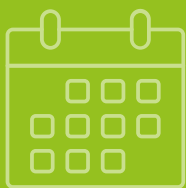
Our award-winning Fellows generally support teachers within their own school networks, but we know there are many teachers in the UK who cannot easily access this support. There is a strong demand for support from teachers who are given responsibility for leading science in their schools, and who don't have the confidence or skillset to do so effectively.

That's where our Regional Mentors come in. They are highly skilled teachers with considerable management experience, able to identify a school's needs quickly and to help plan improvements. They work with teachers to:

- Assess the current status of science teaching and learning in their school
- Create an action plan for the science lead and for the school
- Identify specific training needs and support the science lead to meet them

Regional Mentors also give phone and email advice, and can provide training to clusters, multi-academy trusts and other groupings of schools.

PSTT Achievements & Activity in Numbers



12 years

of providing **support** and **funding** across the UK through the Primary Science Teacher College



over
15,000

teachers using the PSTT's resources each month



over
£24m

invested in science education since 1997



299

schools across 38 areas supported by our **Cluster programme**



over 100

teaching resources available to download for free at www.pstt.org.uk



207

award-winning primary science teachers being supported as Fellows of the College



£500,000

available each year to support outstanding teachers in the **Primary Science Teacher College**



3,070

additional schools supported by our **Regional Mentor programme**



over
11,800

receiving our **Why & How? magazine**

PSTT Trustee Role Description

Why we have trustees

Our trustees provide strategic leadership and oversight for the PSTT as we seek to fulfil our charity's aims. We have an executive (staff team) who carry out the PSTT's day-to-day work.

For more information on what trustees do and why their role is so important, see [The Essential Trustee](#).

As well as being a registered charity, the PSTT is a company limited by guarantee. This means that our Trustees are also company directors.

What you will do

As a trustee, you will work with the rest of the board to ensure that we:

- Develop and follow a long-term strategy that helps to achieve the PSTT's vision
- Benefit schools throughout the UK, building public confidence and trust
- Use our resources effectively and efficiently
- Have strong systems to control our finances and protect our funds and assets
- Oversee the work of our dedicated staff team, and supervise and support the Chief Executive Officer
- Comply with all legal requirements (e.g. producing our annual report and accounts, and fulfilling our responsibilities as an employer)
- Manage the risks that the PSTT faces, taking professional advice where needed
- Safeguard the PSTT's good name and values
- Strive for best practice in governance
- Ensure the highest standards of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the PSTT

You may also be asked to sit on sub-committees or panels during your time as a trustee.

What you will bring to the role

We are looking for trustees who can demonstrate:

- Passion and commitment to the PSTT's aims, and appreciation of the importance of primary science education
- Understanding of the current environment in the charity sector and/or education sector
- Ability to provide strategic oversight, support and challenge to our staff team
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in our work and our board
- Good interpersonal and team skills, with the ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds in a constructive and respectful way
- Good skills in networking, influencing and communication
- Sufficient time to devote to the role (5 days a year for trustee meetings, plus time for reading papers and plenty of opportunities to get involved with other projects if you have the time available)
- If possible, expertise in one or more of the five areas outlined on p.3 (influencing governments, digital content, marketing, primary schools, finance)

Please note that you don't need to have previous experience as a trustee, and we welcome applications from people with diverse life experiences and perspectives. If this is your first trustee role or you are looking to develop wider board level experience, we are happy to provide any necessary training.

Equal opportunities

The PSTT recognises the enormous benefits and social justice of a diverse organisation at every level. We actively and warmly encourage applications from a broad range of backgrounds and experience. We are fully committed to eliminating discrimination and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in our workforce and employment practices, in the work we undertake, and in the provision of all our activities. We welcome applications from everyone, especially protected characteristics underrepresented on our board.

Eligibility

To be a PSTT trustee, you must be 18 or over. We will make the following checks before appointing a trustee:

- Disclosure and Barring Service (enhanced check)
- Charity Commission Register of Removed Trustees
- Individual Insolvency Register
- Companies House register of disqualified directors

For more information on who is eligible to be a trustee, see [The Essential Trustee](#).



**sharing
& learning**

**excitement
& exploration**

**discovery
& delight**

**investigating
& questioning**

www.pstt.org.uk

The Primary Science Teaching Trust
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Why & How? is the brand name of the **Primary Science Teaching Trust**
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