



Marble Hill Playcentres Charity

For nearly 50 years, Marble Hill Playcentres has provided children with a unique and exciting environment to play, create and interact, with our distinctive towering rope swings, zip wire and outdoor play equipment in the beautiful landscape of Marble Hill Park in Twickenham.

Our Adventure Playground (for 5 -15 year olds), One O’Clock Club (for under 5’s) and SENSational Saturday Club (for children with additional needs) encourage children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate in outdoor adventurous play and express themselves physically, mentally and socially, whilst having fun. The day to day work of the Playcentres is conducted by a team of trained playworkers, via our subcontractor, Brilliant Play. We also licence a nursery on our site, Mandarin Ducklings, which caters for children from two to five years of age on weekdays, all year round.

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the Adventure Playground and One O’Clock Club, we have ambitions to improve the buildings and site, upgrade equipment and improve accessibility, collaborate with partners and improve marketing to bring in more sections of the community, and raise income from new sources. This will take energy and focus from trustees, whilst maintaining a clear and united sense of the purpose and value of the Playcentres.

Trustee Role

“Trustees have overall control of a charity and are responsible for making sure it’s doing what it was set up to do. They may also be known as directors, board members or committee members. Whatever they are called, trustees are the people who lead the charity and decide how it is run.”
(The Charity Commission)

The current trustees have a range of backgrounds and interests, with knowledge of safeguarding, finance, law, architecture, fundraising, and marketing. We are a friendly and inclusive team and welcome new members with different perspectives.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month in Twickenham for two hours, to review papers, discuss the current position of the charity, make collective decisions and set actions. We also have subcommittees for marketing, for site renewal, and some other shorter-term meetings. In addition to Board attendance, trustees spend at least a few hours per month carrying out other

short or long-term projects, eg. liaising with a specific stakeholder or community group, researching some costs, or helping prepare a fundraising application. Often this involves working with the playworker manager and other members of the on-site team.

The trustee role is voluntary, but out of pocket expenses are reimbursed. Meetings may be attended virtually, though we try to get together in person when we can.

The duties of a trustee are:

- To ensure that MHPC complies with its governing document (MHPC has an *articles of association*), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that MHPC applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects (ie the charity must not spend money on activities that are not included in its own objects, however worthwhile or charitable those activities are)
- To contribute actively to strategic direction of MHPC, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of MHPC
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of MHPC, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place
- To protect and manage the property of MHPC, including our lease, site and premises
- To make proper arrangements for the appointment, supervision and appraisal of subcontractors and staff
- To ensure the financial stability of MHPC

Other:

- To lead discussions and projects on which the trustee has relevant skills, knowledge and experience
- To regularly attend Board meetings and keep up to date on other communications
- To show support at occasional events, site clear-up days and other community events, and represent MHPC in relevant networks

Benefits of Joining the Board

We will provide a trustee induction, and access to periodic training relevant to our aims and specific tasks you may undertake. Marble Hill Playcentres is a high-profile charity, and you can

genuinely influence its direction at a time of renewed interest in outdoor play and its relevance on childhood physical and mental health. There is huge scope to get involved, sharpen skills, and see the benefits of your input, whether planning an event, analysing data, working with social media, project management, or getting your hands dirty on site. According to research conducted by Getting On Board, 96% of trustees felt they had learned new skills, 86% felt being a trustee was a good complement to professional and family life, and 84% felt being a trustee made them happier!

Person Specification

- A commitment to Marble Hill Playcentres and its beneficiaries
- A willingness to devote necessary time and effort – 10 hours per month as a minimum, to attend Board meetings and take on specific initiatives
- Good, independent judgement and an ability to plan and problem-solve
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- A willingness to contribute to topics outside your immediate area of interest
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

We appoint trustees mainly on the basis of shared passion to protect and steward the Playcentres for future generations of children and their families to enjoy, and believe that diverse experience is relevant to this. Previous board/trustee experience is not required and we seek applicants from all backgrounds and ages.

Appointment Process

Please get in touch with the chair, Kate Heywood, at kate@marblehillplaycentres.com for an initial chat, which is not part of the selection process. We will then ask you to attend an informal interview with two members of the trustee board, and complete a short application form, so that a reference check and DBS can be undertaken. Successful candidates will be invited to attend one or two board meeting prior to formal appointment as a trustee.

For more information about the charity, see <https://marblehillplaycentres.com/>.
Thank you for your interest, and best wishes for your future trusteeship.