



MARBLE HILL PLAYCENTRES CHAIR OPPORTUNITY

Marble Hill Playcentres Charity

For 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.

See <https://marblehillplaycentres.com/> for more details of our current services.

At our fiftieth anniversary, there are opportunities to consider new services, partnerships, and site improvements as part of a new strategy that the incoming chair will oversee. This will help to maintain the charity’s position to the end of the current lease with English Heritage (2031) and beyond. Our board has good stability and low turnover, with current trustees bringing energy, enthusiasm and diverse skills. They are looking forward to fresh leadership and are ready to support the new chair in any way they can.

Core Responsibilities of Chair

Leadership and clarity of purpose:

Taking a leadership role in the organisation along with the Playcentres manager and with the support of other trustees

Ensuring the board agrees the purpose and core values of the organisation, ongoing

Ensuring decisions that are made advance the purpose and values of the organisation

Board coherence:

Creating productive relationships with and among individual board members

Creating the environment for a high performing board team

Maintaining relationships

Ensuring high-quality relationships with key staff, volunteers, our landlord, our licensee and other stakeholders to enable the work of the organisation to be delivered effectively

Facilitation of decision-making

Leading /steering the board in identifying the relevant decisions to be made

Ensuring decision-making is well-informed and appropriately considered

Managing potential conflicts of interest to ensure probity and transparency

Person Specification

Motivation and style

Altruistic, collaborative and empowering

Capacity to lead

Committed to organisational values and purpose

Able to see the bigger picture

Able to handle contentious issues and clarify complex situations

Willing to devote time within the organisation to identify issues and improve understanding

Able to build supportive relationships, and use positive influence to benefit MHPC

Personal Attributes

Calm and confident

Reflective and open to different ideas

At ease with people of all life experiences

Flexible and pragmatic

Organised

Experience

Working relationships, paid or unpaid, to develop skills and attributes as above

Knowledge of charity governance

Experience of boards, as a trustee, director or advisor

Experience of strategic development and planning would be an advantage

Summary of Responsibilities

- Ensure the board focuses appropriately on governance of the charity and adheres to articles of association
- Ensure the board is future-focused, with a guiding strategy to inform decisions and operational plans
- Ensure the board discusses risks and opportunities, and takes appropriate steps to mitigate key risks
- Ensure organisational policies meet current legislation, are up to date, and fit for purpose in the context of current operations

- Ensure the board has an agreed view on the mission and values of the organisation, involving consultation of staff and users as appropriate
- Facilitate constructive and inclusive discussion and ensure effective decisions are made and documented
- Ensure potential conflicts of interest are appropriately handled
- Oversee recruitment, induction and training of board members
- Undertake periodic skills reviews to ensure the board has relevant skills for strategic priorities and committees
- Ensure the board is diverse and includes representation of key user groups
- Hold periodic 1:1s and catch-ups with individual board members
- Plan monthly board meetings and set agendas, set up task and finish groups or subcommittees as required
- Work with the treasurer to ensure finances are understood by all board members, and effective financial controls are in place
- Ensure effective support, challenge and performance-management of our subcontractor, Brilliant Play and oversee annual recontracting
- Ensure appropriate management of our licensee, Mandarin Ducklings
- Ensure effective communication with our freeholder, English Heritage and lead renegotiation of lease
- Act as spokesperson within the local community
- Oversee task and finish groups for periodic projects
- Delegate above tasks amongst board members as appropriate

Time Commitment

The time commitment for the chair position is around 5 hours per week.

Board meetings are monthly, in the evening, held in Twickenham or online. Individual meetings, site visits, emails and phone contact makes up the remainder of the expected time, which is flexible.

Remuneration

The role is voluntary and unremunerated. However, expenses such as travel and childcare for monthly meetings may be reimbursed.

Application Process

To apply for this position, in the first instance, please complete and submit the Marble Hill Playcentres Trustee Application Form which can be found on the recruitment page of our website www.marblehillplaycentres.com.

In addition please email a supporting statement including your reason for applying for the role of Chair, and how you meet the criteria set out in the Person Specification, and a CV if you feel it is relevant, to info@marblehillplaycentres.com by **2pm on Friday 19th December 2025**. Please let us know if you have any disability (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) and/or if you require any special provision should you be called for an interview. Interviews will be held in the evening by Google Meet.

Thank you for your interest in Marble Hill Playcentres!