



## Chair of the Board of Trustees Person Spec

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Reading Quest is seeking a new Chairperson to lead the organisation through a stage of ambitious expansion. Able to open doors, communicate with a wide range of people and inspire confidence, you will also have relevant financial/business experience and understanding of governance.

One in every five boys and one in every ten girls leaving primary school are unable to function at secondary level due to their poor reading skills.. We believe that this is unacceptable. Reading Quest was set up to make sure that everyone gets the chance they deserve.

Reading Quest was set up to give every child an equal chance, through reading, to think, write and enjoy learning.

Reading Quest has inspired teachers, teaching assistants, special needs coordinators and parents since developing the method in Oxford in 1996. 3,500 children in 96 schools in Oxfordshire have been helped by 375 trained Reading Quest tutors. In the last school year we worked in 36 schools with 250 children.

Life can be really hard if you can't read: passing exams, finding a job or having enough money to get by.

- **Illiteracy is costing business and the UK taxpayer £10 billion a year.**
- **One in 5 adults in Britain is 'functionally illiterate', finding it hard to gain employment or cope in society.**
- **The UK ranks 20th out of 23 in a league table of child poverty in wealthier countries (UNICEF).**
- **Over half of the 82,000 people in prison gained no qualifications at school and suffer from poor literacy skills (British Dyslexia Association,2008).**

To discuss the work of Reading Quest please contact:  
Alistair Lomax, Director on 01865-403207/ 07884 196423  
Alistair.lomax@readingquest.org.uk

Or Robin Hill, Treasurer on 01730-825496/ 07940-705654  
rh@rhill.ftech.co.uk

**Please apply by sending a covering letter and CV to Alistair Lomax, Director, Reading Quest, The Old Music Hall, 106-108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JE by 12.00 noon on 10th July 2009.**

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## Reading Quest in action

The Reading Quest method is informed by a tried-and-tested model known as Reading Recovery. The work is rooted in the National Curriculum. By working intensively over a short timescale – six weeks rather than six months – Reading Quest costs markedly less than Reading Recovery.

Reading Quest was established as a programme in 1997. It was incorporated in 2004. Reading Quest is a registered charity no. 1107219 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5273829.

The organisation is governed by a Board of nine Trustees, who are also the members of the company. The Board has been chaired for ten years by Janice Gordon, a longstanding advocate of Reading Quest during her years as a Headteacher. The charity is currently managed by a small executive team led by Director, Alistair Lomax. Reading Quest begins 2009 with optimism. There is much that is new: website, office space, logo, team members, and flexible contracts under a new structure. Our new strapline, 'Read and Succeed', not only describes what Reading Quest is all about, but also indicates how literacy is pivotal to all learning and that the flip side to success (failure, in many different forms) might accompany the 'inability' to read.

The most exciting thing is that the Trustees, with the help of advisers from Pilotlight, have a new challenge: to build the networks and infrastructure to bring Reading Quest within practicable reach of primary school children everywhere in

Britain. This means building the sort of Board which can deliver the new vision. The challenge is underwritten by a business plan which describes how Reading Quest will create a progressive approach in future with contracted and formal relationships with clients and funders, web-based distribution of information and resources and with online donations, discounts and incentive pricing to underwrite the finances. It shows how we aim to share Reading Quest more widely by establishing training (and then outreach) in other cities, how we branch out from support networks in Oxford and embrace the wider world.

- **By 2013, Reading Quest will reach at least 10,000 children**
- **These children will be spread across 1500 schools**
- **Applying the good practice learned in Oxford there will be ten regional hubs each delivering training and core tutorial work**
- **100 core tutors will be active every day of the term, 10 in each region**
- **100 volunteers will be trained each year in each location**
- **150 teaching assistants will be trained each year**

There are currently six meetings of the Trustee Board per annum. These are held in Oxford.  
The position is unremunerated.

For more information see <http://www.readingquest.org.uk>