

Community Champion Role Description

The role of the Community Champion

At Anthem, the local layer of Governance in our schools acts as an important conduit for everyone across the Trust and school community to listen, hear and act on the voices of our stakeholders.

Teaching and learning do not happen in a vacuum. The role of the **Community Champion** is to build local connections to benefit our students and focus on capturing the lived experience of the school's local community. These Community Champions will help the voice of the community surrounding the school to be heard by the ACC, the school, Anthem's National Team and the Trustees, allowing us to address issues and share in celebrations and lessons learned across the Trust.

The Community Champions will:

- Help the ACC communicate with the school's local community.
- Develop and improve existing links between the ACC, the school and Anthem and the local community – helping the school to be at the heart of its community.
- Build new and strengthen existing relationships with local charities, nearby primary and secondary schools and other education institutions, local councils, local authorities, local businesses and other local groups and organisations. Look for ways to collaborate and work together for the benefit of our students and the community.
- Look for opportunities within the local community for the benefit of the students.
- Help Trustees and the National Team understand the local context of the school.
- Provide feedback on how to make the school and Anthem more accessible to the local community.
- Encourage the ACC to be more visible to the local community.
- Always observe confidentiality and not discuss highly sensitive and confidential information with non-ACC members.
- Always direct a complaint from a member of the local community appropriately, in line with the relevant policies.

Who can be a Community Champion?

No specific skills or experience are required to be a Community Champion in an ACC, although the person should be from or connected with the local community and comfortable with building networks. The main purpose is for Community Champions to build and develop strong local connections and networks, making sure that the students maximise on local opportunities by finding ways to keep the school at the heart of the community and acting as a key link between the community, the school and the ACC. Led by the Chair, the ACC collectively will decide which ACC member will take on each Champion role, taking into consideration the skill sets and interests of each ACC member.

What should the Community Champion do and capture and how?

It is important that the feedback from the Community Champion to the ACC is impartial, fair and includes areas of concern and areas to celebrate together with opportunities to connect and collaborate. There are many methods by which the Community Champions can build on community connections and capture local community feedback:

- Linking in with the HT, Senior Leadership Team and the National Team to consider issues the local community may be facing.
- Attending (or getting involved with) local networking events, council meetings, local charity events etc.
- Researching local opportunities online or in person.
- Organising with the school a community survey and reviewing survey results to gain further insight.
- Organising or assisting with focused sessions in collaboration with the HT, Senior Leadership Team and National Team (depending on the focus).
- Attending Anthem's Champion Forums termly, that connect Community Champions across all Anthem's 16 schools and the National Team to share ideas and pick up new ideas.

The above list is not conclusive, and the ACC and Community Champions may have other suggestions. Please remember to obtain approval from the ACC Chair and HT prior to initiating any activities. Should innovative methods be identified, please ensure that any approach is approved by the HT and is shared so other schools can benefit.

The Community Champion Summary Report

Prior to each ACC meeting, the Community Champion will complete the Community Champion Summary Report. This report is a simple 1-page summary, RAG rating the Community Champions perception of community engagement. This report will also include some key findings and evidence, along with areas to celebrate and lessons learned.

During the ACC meeting, the ACC members as a collective will discuss and decide a final RAG rating for the ACC Dashboard. The clerk will also record any actions to be taken between meetings on the Support and Challenge Log (SCL). Both the ACC Dashboard and SCL will be finalised at the ACC meeting and then shared with the schools Associate Director of Education to feed into the next Collaborative Review Day.

After the ACC meeting, work with fellow ACC members and the HT on any actions agreed during the ACC meeting.