# Board of Trustee Policy: Staff Trustee Role Description (NAG 6)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

The Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) staff trustee fulfils legislative requirements relating to Board composition. The role of the staff trustee is to bring a staff perspective to Board decision making and discussion.

As a trustee the staff trustee has an obligation to serve the broader interests of BLENNZ and its ākonga and has equal voice, vote, standing and accountabilities as all other trustees.

This policy outlines the accountability measures of the staff trustee and the standards expected.

## Policy Requirements:

1. The staff trustee is not a union representative or employment advocate and should not act as one.

2. Issues needing to be brought to the attention of the Board must be done within the Board’s set procedures and must not undermine the role of the Principal. There should be no surprises at Board meetings, thus raising items as “general business” that have not been raised with the Principal to see if a solution can first be found at an operational level, must be avoided.

3. The Principal must not block the staff trustee from bringing items to the Board table.

4. The staff trustee is not expected to report to the Board on any matter within BLENNZ unless specifically requested by the Board to do so.

5. The staff trustee is to present to the Board the views of the staff and to report to the staff non-management related decisions of the Board as per the minutes, in conjunction with the Principal.

Other key responsibilities of the Staff Representative include:

1. To work within the Board’s Charter, considering the Charter in all Board decisions.

2. To abide by the Board’s governance and operational policies through familiarity with the Board Governance Manual and all Board policies.

3. To act in the best interests of BLENNZ ākonga at all times.

4. Being bound by the Trustee Code of Behaviour.

## Supporting Documents:

BLENNZ Board and Operational policies.

BLENNZ Charter

[NZ School Trustees Association Website](https://www.nzsta.org.nz/)

Ratified by the Board:



Date: 30 June 2023  
Next Review: 2026