

## Shires Multi Academy Trust (the Trust)

### Terms of reference Trust Board

#### **Purpose**

The Shires Multi Academy Trust (SMAT) is constituted as a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) which has more than one Local Governing Body (LGB) reporting to the Board of Trustees (Trust Board). These are the main responsibilities and terms of reference of the Trust Board.

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Membership:** The Trust Board shall comprise 8-12 Directors. The Members shall appoint no fewer than 6 Directors. The Diocese of Worcestershire Academy Trust shall appoint no fewer than 2 Directors. The total number of Directors who are employees of the Company shall not exceed 25% of the total number of directors.
- Chair:** The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed by the Directors each September from among the Directors, provided this is someone other than an employee of the Trust.
- Clerk:** The Trust Board Clerk shall be appointed by the Directors.
- Quorum:** The quorum for a meeting of the Trust Board shall be any 3 Directors or, where greater, one third (rounded up) of the total number of Directors.
- Meetings:** The Trust Board shall meet as often as is necessary to fulfil its responsibilities and not less than three times in every school year. Minutes of meetings will be recorded by the Clerk to the Trust Board in sufficient time for inclusion on the agenda and among the supporting papers for the next meeting of the Trust Board
- Agendas:** The Clerk shall circulate an agenda for each meeting, together with any supporting papers, at least one week in advance of the meeting.
- Decisions:** Decisions may only be taken by the Trust Board. Each question shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Directors present and voting on the question. Every Director will have one vote. Where necessary, the Chair will have a second or casting vote.
- Link Trustee:** Trustees may be assigned Link trustee roles to work closely with a particular Local Governing Body (*see Appendix 4*).

## Committee Terms of Reference

### Introduction

As a charity and company limited by guarantee, the Trust is governed by a board of trustees (the **Board**) who have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for all the work of the Trust, including the establishing and running of the academies maintained by the Trust (the **Academies** and each an **Academy**).

In order to support the effective operation of the Trust and the Academies, the Board has established a number of committees to which it has delegated certain of its powers and functions. These terms of reference (**Terms of Reference**) set out the constitution, membership and proceedings of the committees the Board has established.

In summary, the Board has established two different types of committee:

- main **Board committees** which are established to deal with Trust-wide matters such as audit and risk (**Audit and Risk Committee**) and Finance and business (**Business Committee**); and
- **local governing bodies (LGBs)** which are established by the Board to support the effective operation of the Academies,

together the **Committees**.

The Board will review these Terms of References together with the membership of the Committees at least once every twelve months.

These Terms of Reference may only be amended by the Board. The functions, duties and proceedings of Committees set out in these Terms of Reference shall also be subject to any regulations made by the Board from time to time.

**Date last approved by the Board:**

**9 December 2020**

**Date for next review:**

***September 2021 or earlier as required during the first year.***

## **1 Establishing the Committees**

1.1 The Board has resolved to establish the following Board Committees as committees of the Board:

- 1.1.1 Audit and risk committee (**Audit & Risk Committee**);
- 1.1.2 Business and Finance committee (**Business Committee**)

1.2 The Board has resolved to establish LGBs for its Academies each as a separate committee of the Board. An LGB may act in respect of two or more Academies. The current list of LGBs and the Academies they operate in respect of is set out in Appendix 1.

## **2 Membership - Board Committees**

2.1 Each Board Committee shall have a minimum of three members and maximum of [five] members. A majority of Board Committee members must be trustees of the Trust (**Trustees**).

2.2 The Board will appoint and remove all Committee members.

2.3 The Board will ensure that Board Committee members have the necessary skills, background and experience to properly fulfil the relevant Board Committee functions.

2.4 The current Board Committee members are set out in the register of committee members maintained by the Trust and which at the date of adoption of these Terms of Reference is set out in Appendix 2.

2.5 No member of the Business Committee can be appointed as a member of the Audit & Risk Committee.

2.6 The Trustees recognise the overriding principles of the Academies Financial Handbook published by the ESFA (the **AFH**) and that the Audit & Risk Committee should be established in such a way as to achieve internal scrutiny which delivers objective and independent assurance for the Trust. In establishing the Audit & Risk Committee the Board will adhere to the principles of the AFH and:

- 2.6.1 staff employed by the Trust will not be members of the Committee, but may attend meetings to provide information and participate in discussions; and
- 2.6.2 the Trust's Accounting Officer and other relevant senior staff will routinely attend committee meetings in the capacity set out above.

## **3 Membership - LGBs**

3.1 Each LGB operating in respect of one Academy shall, unless the Board resolve otherwise, have a minimum of five members and a maximum of eleven members.

3.2 Each LGB operating in respect of two or more Academies shall, unless the Board resolve otherwise, have a minimum of seven members and a maximum of thirteen members.

3.3 The membership of each LGB (each a **LGB Member**) shall be as follows (unless the Board resolve otherwise):

- at least two parent members;
- [two] staff members;
- the Head Teacher of the academy;
- up to [four persons] appointed by the Board (and in respect of faith academies such appointments shall be appointed by the Directors with the consent of the Diocesan Corporate Member);
- [subject to paragraph 3.6,] up to [three] other persons co-opted by members of the LGB;

3.4 The current LGB Members are set out in the register of committee members maintained by the Trust and which at the date of adoption of these Terms of Reference is set out in Appendix 2.

3.5 The Trustees shall delegate to the LGB to:

3.5.1 make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of parent LGB Members, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at an Academy. Any election of a parent member which is contested shall be held by secret ballot;

3.5.2 make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all matters relating to, the election of staff LGB Members.

3.6 The LGB Members may only appoint co-opted members with the consent of the Board.

3.7 The term of office for any LGB Member shall be [four years], save that this time limit shall not apply to the Head Teachers. Subject to remaining eligible, any member may put themselves forward for re-appointment or re-election (as the case may be).

#### **4 Chairs of Committees**

4.1 The term **Chair** refers to the person appointed under this paragraph as chair of the relevant Board Committee or LGB (as appropriate).

4.2 Subject to paragraph 4.3, each Board Committee shall at the first meeting of each academic year elect a member to act as chair of the committee. The committee will elect a temporary replacement from among the members present at any meeting where the Chair is absent.

4.3 No person may act as Chair of a Board Committee under paragraph 4.1 unless they are also a Trustee.

4.4 Subject to paragraph 4.5:

4.4.1 the LGB Members shall at the first meeting of each academic year appoint a LGB Member to act as Chair of the LGB;

4.4.2 the LGB Members will elect a temporary replacement from among the members present at the meeting in the absence of the Chair.

4.5 No person may act as Chair under paragraph 4.4 if they are an employee of the Trust.

## **5 Authority, remit and responsibilities of the Committees**

5.1 Each Committee shall be responsible for the matters as set out in Appendix 3.

5.2 Each Committee is authorised by the Board to:

5.2.1 carry on any activity authorised by these Terms of Reference; and

5.2.2 seek any appropriate information that it properly requires to carry out its role from any senior employee of the Trust and all senior employees shall be directed to co-operate with any request made.

5.3 Save with the consent of the Board, the Committees may not establish sub-committees.

## **6 Proceedings of Committee meetings**

6.1 The Committees will meet as often as is necessary to fulfil their responsibilities but at least three times a year.

6.2 Any two Committee members can request that the Chair convene a meeting by giving no less than [14 days] prior notice.

6.3 The quorum for the transaction of the business of a Board Committee shall be a majority of the Committee members and no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of the Committee unless the majority of members of the Committee present are Trustees.

6.4 The quorum for the transaction of the business of LGB shall be three LGB Members [provided that that at least one of them is a LGB Member appointed by the Board (not including staff members or parent members)].

6.5 The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that a clerk is provided to take minutes at meetings of the Board Committees.

6.6 The relevant Head Teacher shall ensure that a clerk is provided to take minutes at meetings of the LGBs.

6.7 Every matter to be decided at a meeting of a Committee must be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting on the matter.

6.8 Each Committee member present in person shall be entitled to one vote.

6.9 Where there is an equal division of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6.10 A register of attendance shall be kept for each Committee meeting and published annually.

6.11 Committees may invite attendance at meetings from persons who are not Committee members to assist or advise on a particular matter or range of issues. Such persons may speak with the permission of the Chair but shall not be entitled to vote.

6.12 References in paragraph 6 to the “Chair” shall in the absence of the Chair be deemed to be references to the chair of the relevant Committee meeting.

## **7 Conduct of Committee members**

7.1 All Committee members shall observe at all times the provisions of the Trust’s code of governance.

## **8 Members’ Interests**

8.1 Committee members are required to declare any business or other interests in any item being discussed at a meeting.

8.2 Each Committee member, if present at a Committee meeting, disclose their interest, withdraw from the meeting and not vote on a matter if:

8.2.1 there may be a conflict between their interests and the interests of any of the Academies or the Trust;

8.2.2 there is reasonable doubt about their ability to act impartially in relation to a matter where a fair hearing is required; or

8.2.3 they have a personal interest (this is where they and/or a close relative will be directly affected by the decision of the Committee in relation to that matter) in a matter.

## **9 Disqualification & Removal of Committee Members**

9.1 A person shall be ineligible for appointment to a Committee and, if already appointed, shall immediately cease to be a member if the relevant individual:

9.1.1 is or becomes disqualified from holding office under the Trust’s Articles of Association;

9.1.2 is or becomes disqualified from holding office as a governor of a school or academy;

9.1.3 is included in the list of teachers or workers considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people;

9.1.4 is barred from any regulated activity relating to children;

9.1.5 is or becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his/her creditors generally; or their estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;

9.1.6 is convicted of any criminal offence (other than minor offences under the Road Traffic Acts or the Road Safety Acts for which a fine or non-custodial penalty is imposed or any conviction which is a spent conviction for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974);

- 9.1.7 has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school/academy premises during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a Committee member;
  - 9.1.8 refuses to an application being made to the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) for a criminal records check;
  - 9.1.9 commits a serious breach of the Trust's code of governance or any standing order or protocol implemented by the Board;
  - 9.1.10 in the case of a LGB Member, is absent without the permission of the LGB Members from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the LGB Members resolve that his office be vacated;
  - 9.1.11 resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the relevant Chair;
  - 9.1.12 in the case of a Head Teacher, they cease to be the Head Teacher;
  - 9.1.13 in the case of a LGB Member, their term of office expires and they are not re-appointed.
- 9.2 The Trustees shall have the right at their sole discretion to remove or suspend (on such terms as they see fit) any LGB Member by written notice to the relevant Chair.

## 10 Reporting Procedures

- 10.1 Within 14 days of each meeting each Committee will:
- 10.1.1 produce and agree minutes of its meetings;
  - 10.1.2 provide a summary document identifying (i) decisions made, (ii) recommendations to the Board, (iii) any items for the information of the Board and (iv) items for further discussion by the Board,
- together the **Committee Reports**.
- 10.2 The Committee Reports can be agreed by committee members by email.
- 10.3 The Committee Reports will be sent to the Board within [21] days of each Committee meeting.
- 10.4 Committees shall arrange for the production and delivery of such other reports or updates as requested by the Board from time to time.
- 10.5 Each Board committee shall conduct an annual review of its work and the powers and functions delegated to it under these Terms of Reference and shall report the outcome and make recommendations to the Board.
- 10.6 The Trust Board will conduct an annual review of the work and the powers and functions delegated to each LGB under these Terms of Reference, including a review of the Chair's performance.

## Appendix 1

### The Trust's LGBs

#### Webheath

1. Emma Clifton (staff)
2. Alison Preece (staff)
3. Robin Lunn
4. Janine Burton (Headteacher)
5. Steven Downs
6. Jo Archer
7. Sarah Giles
8. Glenn Mellor
- 9.

#### Studley High

1. Neil Robinson
2. Jo Lumley (staff)
3. Zarana Haines (staff)
4. Sally Stephenson
5. David Lee
6. David Stanley
7. Emma James
8. Jayne Woodward
9. Keith Bennett
10. Richard East (Headteacher)

#### Feckenham

1. Julie Grieve
2. Ann Barratt
3. Tania Howarth (staff)
4. Paul Downes
5. Jeannette Little (Headteacher)
6. Toni Morgan
7. Sam Scott-Ison
8. Hannah Mayneord

## Appendix 2 The Register of Committee Members

### **Audit and Risk Committee**

Elaine Shelley  
Fraser Parkinson  
M Thake

### **Business Committee**

Ian Dixon  
David Strain  
K Sanders  
L Gray  
A Pasquette

### **Trust Board members**

1. Mike Thake (Worcester Diocese)
2. Arabella Pasquette
3. David Strain
4. Lee Gray
5. Ian Dixon (Worcester Diocese)
6. Elaine Shelley
7. Fraser Parkinson
8. Marc Worrall

## Appendix 3

### Powers & Functions Delegated

#### Remit and Responsibilities of the Audit & Risk Committee

The powers and functions delegated by the Board to the Audit & Risk Committee are as set out below.

#### *External Audit*

- 1 To consider the appointment of the external auditor and assess independence of the external auditor, ensuring that key audit personnel are rotated at appropriate intervals.
- 2 To recommend the audit fees to the Board and pre-approve any fees in excess of £10,000 in respect of non-audit services provided by the external auditor and to ensure that the provision of non-audit services does not impair the external auditors' independence or objectivity.
- 3 To oversee the process for selecting the external auditor and make appropriate recommendations through the Board to the members of the Trust to consider at any general meeting where the accounts are laid before members.
- 4 To discuss with the external auditor the nature and scope of each forthcoming audit and to ensure that the external auditor receives the fullest co-operation.
- 5 To review the external auditor's annual management letter and all other reports and recommendations, together with the appropriateness of management's response.
- 6 To review the performance of the external auditor on an annual basis.
- 7 To recommend to the Board the appointment/re-appointment of the external auditor.
- 8 To review and consider the circumstances surrounding any resignation or dismissal of the external auditor.

#### *Internal Audit*

- 9 To set and review the internal audit programme and ensure that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the Trust.
- 10 To review the reports and recommendations of the internal audit, together with the appropriateness of management's response.
- 11 To monitor the implementation of action agreed by management in response to reports from the external auditor internal audits.

## ***Financial Management & Policies***

- 12 To keep under review the Trust's financial management and reporting arrangements, providing constructive challenge (where necessary) to the actions and judgements of management in relation to the interim management and financial accounts, statements and reports and the annual accounts and financial statements, prior to submission to the Board, paying particular attention to:
  - critical accounting policies and practices, and any changes in them
  - decisions requiring a major element of judgement
  - the extent to which the financial statements are affected by any unusual or complex transactions in the year and how they are disclosed
  - the clarity and transparency of disclosures
  - significant adjustments resulting from the audit
  - the going concern assumption
  - compliance with accounting standards
  - compliance with DfE and legal requirements.
- 13 To review the Trust's policy and procedures for handling allegations from whistleblowers.
- 14 To review the Trust's policies and procedures for handling allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption.
- 15 To receive reports on the outcome of investigations of suspected or alleged impropriety.
- 16 To review the adequacy of policies for ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory, legal and code of conduct requirements.
- 17 To ensure that any significant losses are investigated and reported to the DfE/ESFA where required.
- 18 To review the Trust's risk management policy, strategy, processes and procedures for the identification, assessment, evaluation, management and reporting of risks.
- 19 To review the adequacy and robustness of risk registers.
- 20 To keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements, as well as its arrangements for securing value for money, through reports and assurances received from management, internal audit, the external auditor and any other relevant independent assurances or reports (eg from the National Audit Office).
- 21 To review all risk and control related disclosure statements, in particular the Trust's annual "Statement on Internal Control", together with any associated reports and opinions from management, the external auditor and Responsible Officer, prior to endorsement by the Trust Board.
- 22 To review any recommendations made by the Secretary of State for Education for improving the financial management of the Academies.

### ***Health & Safety***

- 23 To receive each term the relevant Headteachers's Health and Safety report and advise as necessary.
- 24 To monitor compliance with the Academies' Health & Safety policies and statutory obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### ***General***

- 25 To review or investigate any other matters referred to the Audit & Risk Committee by the Board.
- 26 To draw any significant recommendations and matters of concern to the attention of the Board.

## **Remit and Responsibilities of the Business Committee**

The powers and functions delegated by the Board to the Finance & Operations Committee are as set out below.

### ***Funding***

- 1 To consider each of the Academies indicative funding, notified annually by the DfE/ESFA and to assess its implications for the relevant Academy. This will be in consultation with the Finance Director together with the Headteacher and the Business Manager of the relevant Academy, in advance of the financial year, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Board.
- 2 To consider and recommend acceptance or non-acceptance of the Academies budgets each financial year.

### ***Budgeting***

- 3 To contribute to the formulation of the Academies strategic plans, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the relevant the Headteacher and the Business Manager and with the stated and agreed aims and objectives of the relevant Academy.
- 4 To receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year. This will include the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in each of the Academies' strategic plans.
- 5 To liaise with and receive reports from appropriate committees and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
- 6 To consider the spending plans of other committees and report back and advise the Board.
- 7 To delegate the day to day management of the approved budget to relevant the Headteacher, within agreed authorisation limits.
- 8 To consider requests for supplementary expenditure and make appropriate recommendations to the Board.
- 9 To consider and act upon matters not covered by other sub-committees.
- 10 To review financial policy including consideration of long term planning and resourcing in accordance with each of the Academies' development plans.

### ***Expenditure***

- 11 To monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the Academies, and with the financial regulations of the Trust, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Board.

### ***Financial Procedures***

- 12 To monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate make recommendations for improvement.
- 13 To prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Board to stakeholders and for filing in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act, Charity Commission and Funding Agreement (including the AFH)

### ***Asset Management***

- 14 To receive reports from the relevant Headteacher on the management of assets including premises and their security.
- 15 To confirm that an asset recording system is in place, including an inventory and fixed asset register for each Academy.

### ***Property Management***

- 16 To determine the use of the Academies premises and grounds outside Academies sessions with regard to the lettings and charging policy.
- 17 To ensure that the Academies premises are inspected on an annual basis and that a planned and costed statement of priorities is prepared and reviewed.
- 18 To ensure the responsibilities of the Board under the Environmental Protection Act are met.
- 19 To advise the Board on environmental issues to ensure the Academies are acting as a responsible institution in its duty to conserve energy, materials and with regard to the local community.

### ***Pay Progression***

- 20 To consider any recommendations above the budgeted increases (2 points for example) from the LGBs (with their recommendations) for discussion.

### ***General***

- 21 Reviewing or investigating any other matters referred to the Business Committee by the Board.

Drawing any significant recommendations and matters of concern to the attention of the Trust Board

## Remit and Responsibilities of the LGBs

The powers and functions delegated by the Board to the LGBs are set out in detail in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation as approved by the Board and in summary include the following:

1. To oversee the running of the academies in terms of learning, standards, safety and wellbeing.
2. Ensure that the wellbeing of students is maintained through:
  - student attendance and monitoring systems, enabling access to education
  - demonstration of a duty of care to students on fixed term and permanent exclusions
  - effective arrangements for Child Protection and Safeguarding
  - effective home/school liaison and communication
  - an effective and appropriate extended school provision
  - meeting the statutory requirements relating to equality legislation
3. Ensure a high quality curriculum;
  - To consider and advise the Trust Board on standards and other matters relating to the Academy's curriculum, including statutory requirements and curriculum policy.
  - To consider curricular issues which have implications for Finance and Personnel decisions and to make recommendations to the Trust Board.
  - To oversee arrangements for individual governors to take a leading role in specific areas of provision, such as Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Literacy and Numeracy, and to receive and consider reports from them from time to time.
  - To propose the Academy's statutory annual performance targets.
  - To prepare, monitor and review the Academy's policies relating to curriculum and assessment, and others as delegated by the Trust Board.
  - To oversee the provision of daily acts of collective reflection for all students.
  - To oversee the annual Academy Development Plan and recommend its approval to the Trust Board.
  - To hold local academy leadership to account for academic performance, quality of care and provision.

4. To ensure that the Academy or Academies are conducted in accordance with the objects of the Trust, the terms of any trust governing the use of the land which is used for the purposes of an Academy, any agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for the funding of the Academy or Academies and these Terms of Reference.
5. To support effective financial systems and processes within the academy;
  - Ensure budgets are managed in agreement with the Shires Multi Academy Trust's Scheme of Delegation and policies
  - To ratify levels of internal authorisation as approved by the Trust Board
  - In consultation with the CEO and CFO, to agree a formal budget plan of the financial year ahead
  - Ensure procurement guidance and legislation is implemented.
  - Ensure that annual accounts and reports are produced in accordance with the Companies Act and current regulatory requirements.
  - Consider and act upon the reports of Internal Audit.
  - To be responsible for encouraging and overseeing opportunities for income generation
  - To be responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and development of Academy premises
6. To act as a critical friend to the Headteacher
7. To support the development and maintenance of a highly effective staff body;
  - Consider and advise the Trust Board on the Academy's staffing structure, recruitment, performance management, remuneration and training, including statutory requirements, in consultation with the Academy's Headteacher.
  - Implement MAT policies for deployment relating to staffing, recruitment, pay, discipline, performance management and professional development
  - Oversee the recruitment, selection and appointment of all staff below the Headteacher level
  - Oversee the process of staff reduction (other than HT and CEO) where necessary.
  - Keep under review staff work/life balance, working conditions and well-being, including procedures for absence monitoring.
  - Make recommendations to the Trust Board regarding staffing expenditure
  - Review the salary and pay levels of all staff on the basis of advice from the Academy's Headteacher and, in conjunction with the CEO and Trust Board, make recommendations to the Trust Board linked to the performance of the Academy's Headteacher.
8. Ensure effective Monitoring and Evaluation of school provision

- Support the Academy’s Headteacher and the local Senior Leadership Team in maintaining and improving standards and performance, thus improving outcomes for learners.
  - Act as a critical friend to the local Senior Leadership Team in addressing any areas of challenge or weakness.
  - Ensure effective processes are in place for monitoring teaching and learning, delivery of the curriculum, inclusion, and the sharing of good practice across the Academy.
  - Monitor student behaviour and consider appeals against any decision to exclude students from attendance.
  - Complete an annual review/evaluation of LGB performance and chairs’ performance.
9. Ensure effective Health and Safety systems and processes within the academy;
- Review Health and Safety policies and monitor the effective supervision of health and safety matters.
  - Monitor risk assessments.
  - Monitor, evaluate and review the Academy’s risk registers.
  - Ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation and regulations.
  - Ensure that Health and Safety training needs are met wherever practicable.
10. To promptly implement and comply with any policies or procedures communicated to the LGB by the Board from time to time.
11. To support the Trust’s senior management staff deal with parental complaints pursuant to the Trust policy on parental complaints.
12. To draw any significant recommendations and matters of concern to the attention of the Board.

The Trust prefers each Local Governor to have a particular area of interest. At a minimum we feel each area highlighted above should have an assigned Local Governor who can debrief the LGB as appropriate at defined meetings in the year as to how the academy is meeting its obligations.

At the very minimum we expect the Chair of each LGB to assign:

- A lead Safeguarding, vulnerable groups and SEND Governor
- A lead Personal Development and ‘experience’ Governor
- A lead Curriculum Governor
- A lead Health & Safety Governor
- A lead finance Governor
- A lead governor for well-being and CPD

## Appendix 4

### Link Trustee – Terms of Reference

1. Shires MAT Trustees and Members are determined to ensure that the Trust is for the schools and local communities they serve. We are committed in ensuring that every staff member and governor can support to the best of their ability in ensuring every child can flourish within the trust.
2. Each school within the Trust will be assigned a Link Trustee.
3. Purpose of the Link Trustee role:
  - To act as a direct link between the school and the Trustees
  - To engage with the LGB and develop a relationship to ensure there are open lines of two-way communication between the school and the Trust
  - To oversee that the Trust's Vision and Ethos are being embedded locally and can readily be articulated by governors and senior leaders
  - To understand how effective the LGB are being in their core roles of:
    - Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
    - Holding the headteacher to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
    - Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent
  - To ensure the LGB are undertaking their role in line with the published Trust Scheme of Delegation, particularly with reference to financial matters and statutory requirements
  - To understand how the LGB are overcoming barriers to effective governance
  - To respond to any questions that relate to central Trust decision making (within the bounds of confidentiality)
  - To draw any significant recommendations and matters of concern to the attention of the Trust Board
  - To support the LGB in escalating any risks or issues to the Trust Board in accordance with Trust policy.

#### Meetings:

4. The Link Trustee will aim to attend one LGB meeting at their assigned school every term as a minimum. Link Trustees are not entitled to vote at any meeting unless they are also a member of the LGB to which they have been assigned the link role. LGB agendas and papers shall be made available to Link Trustees one week before the meeting.

## **Reporting and review**

5. Support LGB/HT in communicating with CEO and Chair of Trustees following LGB meetings to enabling communication to flow effectively. Link Trustees will report back verbally at the next Full Board meeting following their link school visit and this will be summarised within the Board minutes.