

Local Governing Body – Terms of Reference

Introduction

The values we hold, the expectations we have and the commitments we make to learners, families and one another are the elements, which bind Enquire Learning Trust Academies together. We work collaboratively to enhance the progress of every learner and leaders across our academies expect achievement to be high and outcomes strong.

A passionate commitment to professional development as the root of improvement and all of our academies embrace the spirit of *enquiry* as a means of affirming, sharing, sharpening and developing practice. Through *collaborative enquiry* we also ensure all voices are heard, valued and make a contribution to the on-going development of the Trust. This is our academy trust, it belongs to all of us, and everyone works together to make it a great place for professionals to work and a fantastic place for children to learn.

Constitution

The Board of Trustees (Trustees) has resolved to establish an Local Governing Body in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Articles of Association to advise the Trustees on matters relating to the Trust's school improvement arrangements and local systems. This Committee shall operate in accordance with any requirements of the Education Funding Agency, Company Law, Charity Law and any other national funding bodies. It is responsible to the Trustees.

Role

The Committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the Trustees through the Scheme of Delegation. It is authorised to request any information it requires from any employee of the Trust and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee. The Committee is authorised to obtain any outside legal or independent professional advice it considers necessary.

Membership and quorum

In usual circumstances, there are 5 members of each committee. However, the committee of each academy has the option of varying this according to specific circumstances. Additional local governors may be appointed at the discretion of the Trust.

The governing body will normally include:

- Academy principal
- 1 staff representative
- 1 parent
- 2 community representative

Local Governors will be appointed for terms of 4 years. After a period of 24 months three governors will be reappointed for a further 4 years.

Chairmanship

The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Trustees annually. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the members shall choose one of their number to act as Chair for that meeting.

Meetings

Local Governing Body will meet each half term, in line with Trustees meetings. The Trustees will set the agenda for each meeting.

Duties

The responsibilities of local governors include:

- Ensuring the quality of educational provision
- Providing support and challenge to the academy leadership team
- Holding academy leaders to account against a range of broad and measurable outcomes identified in the Academy Improvement Plan
- Have oversight of the academy's financial situation – through standard finance reports
- Helping the school to set high standards by planning for the school's future and setting targets for school improvement and future performance

- Specifically, this means that governors will:
 - Ensure high outcomes for young people
 - Identify and deal with areas of underperformance, including the implementation of the Academy Improvement Plan
 - Use the resources available to the academy to raise standards and provide evidence of the success of the strategies adopted
 - Raise staff performance through proper performance management and recruitment
 - Ensure that the educational provision aligns with the nature of each Academy and the strategic aims and values of the Trust
 - Report directly to the Board of Trustees

In order to discharge these duties and make a significant difference to the quality of education provided by the academy, governors should:

- Demonstrate a commitment to furthering the achievement and progress of all learners within the academy
- Have a commitment to the values of the Enquire Learning Trust
- Have a commitment to collaborate working including making a contribution to the development of the Trust and it's academies
- Have at least one significant area of expertise that can be utilised to add value to the development of the academy and the Trust as a whole
- Have a passion for developing learning across the locality served by the academy
- Work with the Trust's code of conduct
- Demonstrate a commitment to the Seven Principles of Pupil Life

These Terms of Reference were discussed and approved by the Trustees on (date)

Signed Chair of Trustees

