

Enhanced Local Governance Committees – Terms of Reference

1. Constitution

Under Article 100(b) of the Articles of Association, the Trust Board may establish a Local Governance Committee (LGC) for any academy, which will act as the academy's local governing body.

The Trust Board may designate the LGC as either:

- a Standard Local Advisory Committee (the default form), or
- an Enhanced Governance Committee (where additional support or intervention is required).

Both models operate as local governing bodies for the purposes of the Articles of Association.

2. Purpose

The purpose of each Local Governance Committee is to:

- Support and challenge the academy in key areas: safeguarding, standards, stakeholder engagement, SEND, and alignment with Trust values
- Act as a conduit for local voice and accountability
- Where appropriate, exercise delegated authority as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation
- Promote sustained improvement and alignment to the Trust's vision and strategic priorities

3. Membership

The Trust Board will determine the composition of the Local Governance Committee for each academy.

Standard Local Advisory Committees typically include:

- Headteacher (ex officio)
- Two elected parent members
- Up to two elected staff members
- Up to 8 additional local/community members appointed for their skills and commitment

Enhanced Governance Committees may be established when:

- Local governance is underdeveloped
- The academy is new to the Trust
- The academy is rated below 'Good' by Ofsted
- On recommendation of Trust leaders

Enhanced Governance Committees (temporary) may include:

- Trustees (including a designated Chair)
- Trust staff (e.g. School Improvement Lead, Business Partner)
- External professionals appointed for specific expertise
- Headteacher/Head of School

As part of the transition from an Enhanced model to a Standard LAC, the Trust Board may initiate elections for parent and staff representatives.

4. Delegated Authority

The level of delegated authority for each Local Governance Committee will be defined in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and may vary by school.

5. Quorum and Decision-Making

The quorum for a Standard Governance committee (LAC) or Enhanced Governance Committee (EGC) shall be a minimum of three members

Where the EGC has been granted delegated decision-making authority by the Trust Board, quorum must ensure that no decision is taken unless a Trustee is present and the number of voting members is sufficient for clear majority decisions.

Where the EGC is operating in an advisory-only capacity, quorum shall be half of the appointed members (rounded up).

The CEO and CFOO may be invited to attend each EGC meeting as standing attendees. They do not count toward quorum and do not have a vote.

6. Transition and Review

The Trust Board will annually review whether the assigned committee model remains appropriate for each academy.

Enhanced Committees will transition to a Standard LAC when:

- Sustained improvement is evidenced through the Academy Improvement Framework
- Leadership, stability and capacity are established

