



# Terms of Reference for Local Governing Committee

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## Hamwic Education Trust (the "Trust")

### *Statement of Intent*

The governors recognise the Trust ethos is built upon the creation of local communities of schools working together through the establishment of partnerships.

The governors undertake to work with the Board of Trustees and partnerships to protect, as far as they are able and is within their control, this aspect of the Trust's ethos.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Hamwic Education Trust (the "Trust") is governed by a Board of Trustees (the "Trustees") who are accountable to the Department for Education and have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for all the work of the Trust, including the establishing and running of the schools operated by the Trust.
- 1.2 The schools set out in Schedule 1 Part 1 are currently operated by the Trust.
- 1.3 In order to assist with the discharge of their responsibilities, and recognising that collaboration and partnership with the schools will raise standards and improve achievement levels for the benefit of children and communities, the Trustees will seek to establish Local Governing Committees("LGC") for each school where possible.
- 1.4 The Trustees may for any sponsored school establish an interim governing committee with such members and such delegated powers as it decides (such delegation shall be set out in a separate delegation document).
- 1.5 Where a school does not have an LGC, the school will follow the Trust protocol.
- 1.6 The Trustees may review these terms of reference at any time but shall review them at least annually.
- 1.7 These terms of reference may only be amended by the Board of Trustees.

### **2. CONSTITUTION**

- 2.1 Members of the LGC shall be known as "governors."
- 2.2 The Trustees have the right to appoint such persons to the LGC as they shall determine from time to time.

2.3 Subject to clause 2.2, the composition of the LGCs shall be as follows:

2.3.1 the School Leader of the school;

2.3.2 2 parent governors in respect of the school ("parent members") elected or appointed (see Annex 1 – 3.1) and

2.3.3 other persons co-opted to the **LGC** by the governors.

2.4 Subject to clause 2.3, it is for the **LGC** to determine its size and make up and governors may be appointed solely on skills based criteria.

2.5 The procedure for the appointment and the removal of governors shall be as set out in Annex 1.

### **3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TRUSTEES AND LGC**

3.1 The Trustees and the **LGC** intend to work together to:

3.1.1 deliver and uphold the visions and value of the Trust;

3.1.2 protect the community ethos of each school and partnership;

3.1.3 protect and preserve the schools so that they all develop within the Trust; and

3.1.4 respect the character, ethos and values of each school.

3.2 The **LGC** shall in carrying out its role:

3.2.1 promote high standards and aim to ensure that students and pupils are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being;

3.2.2 be responsible to the Trustees for its actions and follow the expectations of governors as laid down by the Trustees;

3.2.3 aim to establish that it is competent, accountable, independent and diverse promoting best practice in governance;

3.2.4 aim to ensure that its governors promote and uphold high standards of conduct, probity and ethics;

3.2.5 act as an ambassador for and to promote the Trust.

3.3 The Trustees shall support the work of the **LGC** by:

3.3.1 setting a clear strategic vision to allow the **LGC** to set and achieve its own aims and objectives within such vision;

3.3.2 ensuring that systems are put in place to allow the governors to be presented with timely and good data to allow the **LGC** to analyse school performance in order to support and challenge the School Leaders; and

3.3.3 ensuring that the governors have access to high quality training.

3.3.4 Without prejudice to the Trustees' other rights to remove any governor and the Trustees' right to amend these terms of reference at any time (in consultation with the

Trust Council), where the Trustees have concerns about the performance of an **LGC** they may amongst other actions:

- 3.3.5 require the relevant **LGC** to adopt and comply with a governance action plan in such form as determined by the Trustees;
- 3.3.6 suspend or remove any or all of the matters delegated to the **LGC**;
- 3.3.7 suspend or remove any or all of the governors of the relevant **LGC**;
- 3.3.8 put in place an Interim Governing Committee

3.4 The Trustees may take any or all of the actions specified in clause 3.4 where:

- 3.4.1 the **LGC** has acted outside these terms of reference or the Scheme of Delegation;
- 3.4.2 there are concerns about financial matters;
- 3.4.3 insufficient progress is being made against educational targets (including where intervention by the Secretary of State is being considered or carried out);
- 3.4.4 the school is placed in a category by Ofsted or the Trust's "Managed Service Standards Team";
- 3.4.5 there has been a breakdown in the way the school is managed or governed;
- 3.4.6 the safety of pupils or staff is threatened, including a breakdown of discipline; or
- 3.4.7 the Trustees consider such removal of power or responsibility appropriate in all of the circumstances.

#### **4. THE DELEGATED BUDGET**

4.1 In line with their duties and responsibilities as Trustees and irrespective of the delegations set out in the Scheme of Delegation, the Trustees shall be entitled to determine that a proportion of the budget in respect of the school be held centrally for the following reasons:

- 4.1.1 to be allocated to the provision of central services received by the school;
- 4.1.2 in pursuance of the Trust's reserve policy; and / or
- 4.1.3 as otherwise may be determined by the Trustees acting reasonably and in the best interests of the Trust.

#### **5. DELEGATION TO THE LGC**

5.1 The **LGC** shall have the roles set out in the Scheme of Delegation and any other role that the Trustees agree shall be carried out by the **LGC** and that is communicated in writing to the Chair of the **LGC**.

5.2 In the exercise of its delegated powers and functions, the governors of the **LGC** shall:

- 5.2.1 ensure that the school is 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 the school, any agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for the funding of the school and these terms of reference;

- 5.2.2 promptly implement and comply with any policies or procedures communicated to the **LGC** by the Trustees from time to time;
  - 5.2.3 review its own policies and practices on a regular basis, in view of any advice or recommendations made by the Trustees;
  - 5.2.4 work closely with the Trustees and act with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the Trust and the school;
  - 5.2.5 be open about decisions and be prepared to justify those decisions;
  - 5.2.6 keep confidential all information of a confidential nature obtained by them relating to the school and the Trust; and
  - 5.2.7 adopt financial prudence in managing the financial affairs of the Trust in so far as these relate to the school and are delegated to them.
- 5.3 Each governor shall be required to take part in regular self-review and is accountable for meeting his own training and development needs. It is a governor's responsibility to consider if, and raise any concerns where, he feels that appropriate training and development is not being provided.
- 5.4 Governors shall be expected to report to the Trust against KPIs which have been set for the school and provide such data and information regarding the business of the school and the pupils attending the school as the Trustees may require from time to time.
- 5.5 Annex 3 sets out the powers retained by the Trust.
- 5.6 For the avoidance of doubt, where a power is not expressly delegated to the School Leaders or any **LGC** it will be deemed to have been retained by the Trust regardless of whether it is specified in Annex 3.
- 5.7 Annex 3 may be reviewed by the Trustees at any time but shall be reviewed at least annually. Trustees reserve the right to remove or alter any delegation at any time, whilst having due regard to, but not being bound by, the views of the **LGC**.

## **Schedule 1**

### Part 1: Schools operated by the Trust

#### **Jefferys Education Partnership**

- Upper Shirley High School
- Wordsworth Primary School
- Hollybrook Junior School
- Hollybrook Infant School
- Shirley Junior School
- Shirley Infant School
- Southampton Hospital School

#### **Edwin Jones Partnership**

- Harefield Primary School
- Beechwood Junior School
- Glenfield Infant School
- Townhill Infant School
- Weston Park Primary School
- Weston Shore Infant
- Ludlow Infant School
- Weston Secondary School

#### **Ridings Partnership**

- Gatcombe Park Primary School
- Westover Primary School

#### **Hillary Partnership**

- Hamworthy Park Junior
- Twins Sails Infant and Nursery School
- Bearwood Primary and Nursery School
- Springdale First School
- Lytchett Matravers Primary School
- Upton Infant School
- Upton Junior School

- Henbury View First School
- Wimborne First School
- Hillbourne Primary School

#### **Greenway Partnership**

- Livingstone Road Junior School
- Livingstone Road Infant School
- Bishop Aldhelm's Church of England Primary School
- Talbot Primary School

#### **Mayflower Partnership**

- Sholing Infant School
- Sholing Junior School
- Thornhill Primary School
- Woolston Infant School

## **Annex 1 – Appointment and Removal of Governors**

### **1. General**

- 1.1 Every person wishing to become a governor will be required to sign a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act as a governor, in the form set out in Annex 4 or as prescribed by the Trustees from time to time

### **2. Staff governors**

- 2.1 Where the **LGC** has opted to have staff governors they shall invite nominations from all staff employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide services to the school and, where there are any contested posts, shall hold an election by a secret ballot.
- 2.2 All arrangements for the calling and the conduct of the election and resolution of questions as to whether any person is an eligible candidate shall be determined by the **LGC**.

### **3. Parent governors**

- 3.1 Parent governors of the **LGC** should be elected and only appointed if there are not enough parent candidates to enable an election to take place. Where a parent governor is elected this shall be by parents of registered pupils at the school. He or she must be a parent of, or have parental responsibility for, a pupil at the school at the time when he or she is elected.
- 3.2 The **LGC** shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of a parent governor.
- 3.3 Where a vacancy for a parent governor is filled by election, the **LGC** shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that every person who is known to them to be a parent of a registered pupil at the school is informed of the vacancy and that it will be filled by election, informed that he is entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given an opportunity to do so.
- 3.4 Any election of persons who are to be the parent governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. The arrangements made for the election of the parent governors shall provide for every person who is entitled to vote in the election to have an opportunity to do so by post or, if he prefers, by having his ballot paper returned to the school by a registered pupil at the school.
- 3.5 Where the number of parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, the **LGC** may appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at the school or, where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a registered pupil of another school run by the Trust.

### **4. Co-opted governors**

- 4.1 Co-opted governors of the **LGC** shall be appointed by the governors. He or she must be:
- a) a person who lives or works in the community served by the school; or
  - b) a person who, in the opinion of the **LGC**, has the necessary skills set and is committed to the governors and success of the school.
- 4.2 The governors may not appoint an employee of the Trust as a co-opted governor if such appointment would mean that employees on the **LGC** would exceed one-third of the total number of governors.

## **5. Term of office**

- 5.1 The term of office for any governor shall be confirmed on appointment with such term being no more than 4 years, save for the School Leaders of the school who shall remain a governor until he or she ceases to be the School Leader at the school.
- 5.2 Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of governor, any person may be re-appointed or re-elected to the **LGC**.

## **6. Resignation and removal**

- 6.1 A person serving on the **LGC** shall cease to hold office if:
- a) he resigns his office by giving notice in writing to the clerk of the **LGC**;
  - b) the School Leaders or a staff governor ceases to work at the school;
  - c) the **LGC** terminate the appointment of a governor whose presence or conduct is deemed by the **LGC**, at their sole discretion, not to be in the best interests of the Trust or the school;
  - d) he or she has, without the consent of the **LGC**, failed to attend **LGC** meetings for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first such meeting he or she failed to attend and the Chair agree that the term of office should be terminated.
- 6.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a parent governor shall not automatically cease to hold office solely by reason of their child ceasing to be a pupil at the school.

## **7. Disqualification of governors**

- 7.1 A person shall be disqualified from serving on the **LGC** if he would not be able to serve as a Trustee in accordance with Articles 68-80 of the Articles.

## **8. Appointment and removal of Chair and Vice Chair**

- 8.1 The Chair and Vice Chair of the **LGC** shall be elected by the **LGC**.
- 8.2 The term of office of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be 2 years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a governor, any governor may be re-appointed as Chair or Vice Chair of the **LGC**. The Chair or Vice Chair shall not be a school leader or member of staff.
- 8.3 The Chair and Vice Chair may at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Trustees. The Chair or Vice Chair shall cease to hold office if:
- a) he ceases to serve on the **LGC**;
  - b) he is employed by the Trust whether or not at the school; or
  - c) in the case of the Vice Chair, he is appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of the Chair.
- 8.4 Where the Chair is absent from any meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall act as the chair for the purposes of the meeting. Where the Vice Chair is also absent from the meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of Vice Chair, the governors of the **LGC** shall elect one of their number to act as chair for the purposes of that meeting.

## **9. Committees**

- 9.1 The **LGC** may establish subcommittees who may include individuals who are not members of the **LGC**, provided that such individuals are in a minority.
- 9.2 The **LGC** may delegate to a subcommittee or any person serving on the **LGC**, subcommittee, the Head of School or any other holder of an executive office, such of their powers or functions as they consider desirable. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions either the Trustees or the **LGC** may impose and may be revoked or altered. The person or subcommittee shall report to the **LGC** in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise of that power or function at the meeting of the **LGC** immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

## **Annex 2 – Proceedings of the LGC**

### **1. Clerk**

1.1 The **LGC** shall appoint a clerk to the **LGC** who shall not be a governor. In the absence of a clerk, the **LGC** shall elect a replacement for that meeting.

1.2 The responsibilities / functions of the Clerk to the **LGC** are as follows:

- convene meetings of the **LGC** including sending notices and papers of meetings;
- attend meetings of the **LGC** and ensure minutes are produced;
- maintain a register of members of the **LGC** including their terms of office and report any vacancies to the **LGC**;
- maintain a register of business interests of **LGC** governors;
- maintain a register of governors' attendance at meetings and report on non-attendance to the **LGC**;
- report to the **LGC** as required on the discharge of the Clerk's functions; and
- perform such other functions as shall be determined by the **LGC** from time to time.

### **2. Meetings**

2.1 The **LGC** shall meet at least once in every term and shall hold such other meetings as may be necessary.

2.2 Meetings of the **LGC** shall be convened by the clerk to the **LGC**, who shall send the governors written notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda at least seven clear days in advance of the meeting. Where there are matters demanding urgent consideration, the Chair or, in his absence, the Vice-Chair, may waive the need for seven days' notice of the meeting and substitute such notice as he thinks fit.

2.3 Any governor shall be able to participate in meetings of the governors by telephone or video conference provided that he has given reasonable notice to the clerk of the **LGC** and that the governors have access to the appropriate equipment.

2.4 The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda thereof or any defect in the election, appointment or nomination of any person serving on the **LGC**.

2.5 The governors may invite persons who are not governors (such as a member of a committee, any employee, any pupil, any professional adviser and any experts of any kind) to attend the whole or part of any meeting for purposes connected with the meeting.

### **3. Quorum**

3.1 The quorum for a meeting of the **LGC**, and any vote on any matter at such a meeting, shall be any three of the governors of the **LGC**, or, where greater, any one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the total number of governors of the **LGC** at the date of the meeting.

#### **4. Voting**

- 4.1 Every matter to be decided at a meeting of the **LGC** shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the governors present and entitled to vote on the matter. Every governor shall have one vote. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote. A governor may not vote by proxy.
- 4.2 Any governor who is also an employee of the Trust shall withdraw from that part of any meeting of the **LGC** at which his remuneration, conditions of service, promotion, conduct, suspension, dismissal or retirement are to be considered.
- 4.3 A resolution in writing, signed by all the governors shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the governors duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by one or more of the governors.

#### **5. Conflicts of Interest**

- 5.1 Any governor who has or may have any direct or indirect duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest) which conflicts or may conflict with his duties as a governor of the **LGC** shall disclose that fact to the **LGC** as soon as he becomes aware of it. A person must absent himself from any discussions of the **LGC** in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his duty to act solely in the interests of the school and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest).
- 5.2 A governor of the **LGC** has a Personal Financial Interest if he, or any child, stepchild, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister or spouse of the governor or any person living with the governor as his or her partner, is in the employment of the Trust or is in receipt of remuneration or the provision of any other benefit directly from the Trust or in some other way is linked to the Trust or the school.

#### **6. Minutes of meetings**

- 6.1 At every meeting of the **LGC** the minutes of the last meeting shall be taken as the first agenda item after any apologies and, if agreed to be accurate, shall be signed as a true record.
- 6.2 Using GovernorHub the clerk to the **LGC** shall ensure that all papers relating to each **LGC** meeting are uploaded so that the Trustees are able to monitor the work of the **LGCs** effectively.

## Annex 3 – Reserved Matters

### Trustees

(subject to such other consents / requirements as might be required by law or the Funding Agreement)

To change the name of the Schools

To determine the educational character, mission or ethos of the Schools

To adopt or alter the constitution and terms of reference of any committee of the Board of Trustees

To terminate a supplemental funding agreement for a School

To establish a trading company

To sell, purchase, mortgage or charge any land in which the Trust has an interest

Change use of capital assets i.e. assets from which the Trust derives benefit from more than one year e.g. land, buildings, IT in line with the funding Agreement, Academies Financial Handbook and legislation

To approve the annual estimates of income and expenditure (budgets) and major projects

To appoint investment advisors

To sign off the annual accounts

To appoint or dismiss the Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, the Company Secretary or the Clerk to the Trustees

To settle the division of executive responsibilities between the Trustees on the one hand and Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the School Leaders on the other hand, and to settle the division of executive responsibilities between those individuals

To do any other act which the Funding Agreement expressly reserves to the Trustees or to another body (including for the avoidance of doubt, terminating the Funding Agreement or any part of it)

To do any other act which the Articles expressly reserve to the Board of Trustees or to another body

To do any other act which the Board of Trustees determine to be a Reserved Matter from time to time

## Annex 4 – Governor declaration

The Trustees

[• address]

[• 00 month year]

Dear Sirs

Hamwic Education Trust (**Trust**) - appointment as a Governor

I confirm that I wish to be a Governor in respect of [• name of school] in accordance with the Terms of Reference for Local Governing Bodies prescribed by the Trustees of the Trust from time to time.

I confirm that I am not disqualified from becoming a Governor by reason of any provision in the Terms of Reference for Local Governing Bodies (and by extension the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust).

I also confirm that I understand that I must disclose any personal interest I may have in any matter to be discussed at a meeting of the Local Governors in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex 2 ("proceedings of the **LGC**") of the Terms of Reference for Local Governing Bodies (or as prescribed by the Trustees of the Trust from time to time).

Yours faithfully

Signed .....

Name .....

Date .....