

Standards Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To assist the decision making of the Board of Directors by enabling more detailed consideration to be given by reviewing and evaluating teaching and learning, student achievement and standards & intervention.

To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Directors on a regular basis. Major issues will be referred to the Board of Directors for ratification.

Frequency of meetings

There should be a minimum of three meetings in each school year.

Membership and Quorum

The Chief Executive Officer is an ex-officio member of each committee with the exception of the Audit Committee and Pay Review. At least three other Directors shall be a member of the committee.

The Chair of the committee will be elected by the committee on an annual basis at the first meeting in the autumn term. No Director employed at the Academy will act as Chair to the committee. In the absence of the Chair, the committee will elect a temporary replacement from among the governors present at the committee meeting.

The clerk of the committee is appointed by the committee

The quorum is three Directors who are members of the committee (or where greater any one third of the Directors holding office at the date of the meeting).

Meetings

The clerk of the committee will circulate an agenda for each meeting and papers at least 7 days before the committee meeting

Attendance at each committee meeting, issues discussed and recommendations for decisions will be recorded. The written record will be included on the agenda and papers of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Only Directors who are members of the committee may vote at committee meetings. Where necessary, the elected Chair of the committee may have a second or casting vote.

In the event of a need to make genuinely urgent decisions between meetings on matters falling within the remit of the committee, the Chair of the Directors, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the committee, will take appropriate action on behalf of the committee.

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Standards

1. To consider any appropriate curriculum priorities to be implemented across the Trust.
2. To ensure that any statutory and Diocesan requirements relating to key policies on academy aims, special needs, sex education, charging, religious education, collective worship, attendance and behaviour are implemented.
3. To assist the Chief Executive Officer and the Headteachers of the Academies, as appropriate, in the formulation of statutory policies. Any statutory policies must be ratified by the Trust Board.
4. To review the performance of the Academies against agreed Key Performance Indicators.
5. To support the Trust Board with the development of a strategic plan for any Supported Academy which identifies agreed priorities and targets for improvement, focusing specifically on both standards and resource planning.
6. To work with the Chief Executive Officer and the Headteachers in developing the awareness of the Local Governing Committee of the Academy's curriculum priorities.
7. Assess the performance of the Academies as a group, developing a benchmarking tool which can be used to drive further improvements, advising the Trust Board on the effectiveness of this and liaising with the Diocesan Department for Education to implement any Diocesan guidance or advice.
8. Seek to identify areas where greater collaboration between the Academies can improve standards and outcomes.
9. With the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer and the Diocesan Department for Education, carry out periodic reviews of the standards of teaching and learning in each of the Academies.

Governance

10. In consultation with the Diocesan Department for Education, to monitor the effectiveness of the Scheme of Delegation and to consult with staff and the Local Governing Committees where change is advisable or has been recommended by the Diocesan Department for Education.
11. In collaboration with the Diocesan Department for Education, to develop and implement a programme of Director and Governor training.
12. To undertake a regular skills audit of both the Trust Board and each of the Local Governing Committees and making appropriate recommendations to the Trust Board for appointments and removals where necessary.
13. To vet all nominations for appointments to the Local Governing Committees
14. To support the Chairs of the Local Governing Committees to ensure they are working effectively.
15. To develop and support the adoption of best practice in governance at all levels in the Trust, having regard to any advice and guidance of the Diocesan Department for Education.
16. In consultation with the Diocesan Department for Education, to advise the Trust Board on any intervention at Local Governing Committee level where there has been a break down in governance.

17. To advise and lead on the appointments of clerks to the Trust Board and the Local Governing Committees and to support their training to ensure they are knowledgeable about the governance arrangements within the Trust.