



Standards and Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference 2025/26

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Review Date and Summary of Changes

Date of review	Summary of changes
August 2024	Membership Updated for 2024/2025
September 2025	Membership updated for 2025/2026 Additional policies added

Signed By:

Chair of Trustees

Date: 14th October 2025

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 14th October 2025

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1. Introduction & Purpose

- 1.1 The committee's specific function is to support the Trust Board, CEO and relevant members of the executive team in their responsibilities for the educational performance of the Trust and its pupils in the context of the Trust's strategy.
- 1.2 In respect of safeguarding the committee is to provide support for the Trust Board, CEO and relevant members of the executive team for all safeguarding matters, and ensure that all policies, procedures and training requirements are effective, acting in line with guidance and relevant legislation.
- 1.3 These Terms of Reference are in place to enable the Trust Board to deliver its responsibility and accountabilities highlighted within the Articles of Association, Academy Trust Handbook and the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. In the event of uncertainty regarding these Terms of Reference, the Scheme of Delegation shall take priority. In the event of further uncertainty, the Articles of Association shall take priority.

2. Constitution and Membership

2.1 Membership: All Trustees.

2.2 Quorum: At least three trustees, including the Chair of the Committee.

2.3 In attendance: Chief Executive Officer, Directors of Education, Director of Safeguarding and People Services, Governance Professional.

2.4 Election of Chair: The Committee shall at its first meeting of each academic year elect a member to act as Chair, unless elected at the first meeting of the Trust Board.

3. Frequency of Meetings and Administration

3.1 The Committee will meet at least once per term or otherwise as required unless its core function is fulfilled by the Trust Board.

3.2 The Committee will receive reports from the Trust in sufficient detail to enable it to undertake its strategic responsibilities to advise, monitor, evaluate and report.

4. Scope of the Committee's duties and responsibilities.

4.1 The Committee is authorised to advise, monitor, evaluate and report on:

Curriculum matters

- The broad educational needs of the pupils attending the Trust's schools and academies.
- The curriculum guiding principles which apply to all schools and academies in the Trust.
- How curriculum guiding principles are being implemented by schools and academies in the Trust and their impact on all pupils.
- Curriculum and quality of education issues for all schools and academies in the Trust.
- Curriculum enrichment throughout the Trust.
- Other curriculum issues such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning
- Alignment of the curriculum to the national requirements.

Pupil achievement

- Pupil achievement and standards throughout the Trust, including specific groups: those with special educational needs and disability (SEND), disadvantaged, looked after children and pupils with English as an additional language.
- The quality of education throughout the Trust, including performance and future performance trends and risks in relation to each school or academy.

- How collaboration between schools and academies in the Trust and more widely, is raising pupil achievement and wider outcomes.
- The destinations of Primary School and Secondary School students.

Behaviour and Welfare

- The behaviour principles which apply to all schools and academies in the Trust.
- Issues related to pupil discipline such as levels of suspensions and permanent exclusions across the Trust.
- Current and emerging patterns, trends and risks relating to attendance and behaviour for all schools and academies in the Trust.
- Current and emerging patterns, trends and risks relating to pupil wellbeing for all schools and academies in the Trust.
- The Trust-wide approach to providing pupils with effective careers education.

Safeguarding

- The effectiveness and impact of current safeguarding arrangements, ensuring they address the issues outlined in relevant guidance and legislation.
- The safeguarding audits and monitoring of any subsequent action plans.
- Anonymised reports regarding recent safeguarding issues, identifying new risks and the school's approach to minimising these.

Leadership and Development

- Teaching capacity throughout the Trust including the impact of continuing professional development on pupil achievement and standards.
- The operation and effectiveness of the Trust's Professional Development Review Policy arrangements, including monitoring the impact of workload.
- To advise the Trust Board on the funding priorities necessary to deliver the curriculum.

4.2 Review, adopt and monitor all policies delegated by the Trust Board, which may include:

- Attendance
- Suspensions and Exclusions
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Assessment Policy
- Careers Education and Guidance
- Managing Employee Performance
- Managing Allegations Against Staff
- Educational Trips and Visits
- Social Media

5. The Committee is authorised by the Trust Board to:

5.1 Carry on any activity authorised by these Terms of Reference.

5.2 Seek any appropriate information that it requires from any officer of the Trust and all officers shall be directed to co-operate with any request made.

6. Proceedings of Committee Meetings

6.1 Every matter to be decided at a meeting of the Committee must be determined by a majority vote of the members present and voting on the matter, where there is an equal division of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6.2 A register of attendance shall be kept for each Committee meeting and published annually on the Trust's website in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

6.3 Approval of policies and documents may, at times, be required outside of Committee meetings. In such circumstances Trustees can seek approval via written resolution through the Governance Professional.

6.4 Detailed minutes of the meeting will be taken by the Governance Professional and provided to the next meeting of the Trust Board.

6.5 The Committee shall review annually the Committee's terms of reference and its own effectiveness and recommend to the Trust Board any necessary changes.

7. Review and Approval

7.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually and approved by the Trust Board