

ACE Schools Multi Academy Trust Governance Structure

MEMBERS - optimum number 5 (AFH 2017)

Members are akin to the shareholders of a company. They have ultimate control over the academy trust, with the ability to appoint some of the trustees and the right to amend the trust's articles of association.

Members must be of suitable calibre to hold this responsibility. One member can be a trustee, this is usually the Chair of the Trustees.

All Members, Trustees and Governors will work to the Nolan Principles and ensure the MAT follows them as well.

BOARD of TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS – up to 10 people

Responsible for strategy and outcomes including setting the direction, up-holding the educational standard and ensuring financial probity. Holds the CEO to account. Report to the Members. Membership should be strategic, committed to public service, board level competency

Skills audit to show compliance with the demands: finance, business, legal, HR, Education

There is a Finance and Audit Committee and Remuneration committee reporting to the trustees.

Local Governing bodies report to the Trustees and have their responsibilities delegated by the Trustees.

Finance and Audit Committee

Responsible for financial, audit and risk function of the Trust and reports to the Trust Board. Trustee membership

Remuneration committee

Responsible for the Executive team remuneration and agreeing staffing structures. Trustee membership

Chief Executive & accounting officer

Sarah Gillett

Director of Performance

Chris Humphries

Director of Finance
& chief financial officer

Paul Turner

Director of School
Improvement

Paul Winterton

ACE Schools
Plymouth
Local
Governing
Body

Courtlands
School
Local
Governing
Body

School A
Local
Governing
Body

Subsidiary
company
Board

Trust Members – the top level of governance, the ‘shareholders’ of the Company

The liability of the **members** of the MAT is limited, as with any company limited by guarantee, by the amount of the guarantee undertaken by the member (this is usually set at £10 in the Articles of Association).

Role: Overall strategic responsibility for the Trust and the appointment of Trustees. They hold an annual general meeting and extraordinary general meetings if needed.

The functions of the members of the Academy Trust include:

- Overseeing the achievement of the objectives of the company
- Taking part in annual and extraordinary general meetings
- Appointing new trustees
- Receiving the company’s financial accounts and annual report
- Power to amend the Articles of the company and, ultimately, to remove the trustees.

The Board of Trustees / Directors – the decision makers and strategic thinkers

The trustees are equivalent to governors in a single academy / free school trust and fulfil the role of both company law and charity trustees (hence dual title of director & trustee). Most governance decisions are made collectively through the Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible to the members, has overall responsibility for each academy / free school in the Trust and manages the academies on behalf of the Academy Trust.

Role: Meet at least 3 times each year. Responsible for the day to day operation (management and administration) of the Multi-Academy Schools on behalf of the Members. Reports to the Academy Members. Sets the terms of reference (Scheme of Delegation) for the Local Governing Bodies (LGBs). Has the power to overrule decisions made by its sub-committees and the Local Governing Bodies. Appoints Chairs to Local Governing Bodies.

The key responsibilities are to:

- Ensure the quality of educational provision
- Challenge and monitor the performance of the Trust schools
- Manage the Academy Trust’s finances and property
- Manage the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Exercise reasonable skill and care in carrying out their duties
- Ensure that the Academy Trust complies with charity and company law
- Agreeing the company’s annual report and accounts
- Operate the Academy Trust in accordance with the Master Funding Agreement and any supplemental funding agreements for each academy or free school that has been signed with the secretary of state

Creates a Finance and Audit Committee with responsibility for finance, audit and risk oversight

Creates a Remuneration Committee with responsibility for pay and staff restructure.

Committee Terms of Reference and devolved responsibilities

Each committee is a sub-committee of the Board and has delegated powers / matters accorded by the decision of the Trust Board. The principle is to enable closer and more detailed scrutiny of the Finance and Audit function and the Remuneration Function of the Board. The Committees are formed from Trustees and report directly to the Board of Trustees.

Local Governing Body – community involvement and decision making devolved by the Board

We are a multi-academy trust with one board of trustees and under its Articles of Association it has a local governing body (or advisory body) for each academy / free school.

The local governing body (LGB) is a sub-committee of the Board and has delegated powers / matters accorded by the decision of the Trust Board. The principle is to enable each academy/free school to earn a higher level of autonomy whilst an academy/free school judged to be less than good to receive only a limited amount of delegation from the Board of Trustees.

Role: Meet at least 3 times each year. Overseeing of one academy / free school, exercising of delegated powers given by the Multi-Academy Trust and reports to the Board of Trustees through the Local Governing Body Chair.

Creates sub-committee for Performance related pay recommendations

Creates panels for disciplinary, appeals, complaints as necessary.