

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE: LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Purpose

1. A Local Governing Committee (LGC) shall be established for each of the Academies, except where the Trust Board determines in a particular case that more than one Academy should be governed by the same LGC.
2. The purpose of the Local Governing Committee is to provide local accountability and day to day support and oversight of the Academy's leadership team.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the Local Governing Committee are set out in the Table of Key Delegated Responsibilities.

Constitution

4. Governors appointed to a Local Governing Committee shall be appointed as follows:
 - 4.1. such number of Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to ensure that the Foundation Governors outnumber all other Governors by at least 2;
 - 4.2. the Headteacher of the Academy (or Headteachers where the Academies are federated and there is no Executive Headteacher);
 - 4.3. up to 1 Staff Governor, elected or appointed through such process as the Local Governing Committee may determine;
 - 4.4. up to 1 Parent Governor, elected by parents or carers of registered pupils at the Academy and being a parent or carer of a pupil at the Academy at the time when elected;
 - 4.5. In exceptional circumstances, for a limited period of time, up to 1 additional (or Non-Foundation) governor may be appointed by the Local Governing Committee with the approval of the Trust Board.
5. There is no power to co-opt Governors to the Local Governing Committee but advisers (including other members of staff in the Academy) may attend meetings provided they do not take part in any decision making.
6. All Governors must undertake to uphold the object and mission of the Trust and must comply with the Governor Code of Conduct appended to the Scheme of Delegation.

Term of Office

7. The term of office for any Governor shall be 4 years (save that this time limit shall not apply to the Headteacher or any post which is held ex officio, who will serve for as long as he or she remains in office). Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any person may be re-appointed or re-elected to the Local Governing Committee.
8. A Governor shall serve one particular school for no more than 3 terms of office.

Resignation and Removal of members of the Local Governing Committee

9. A Governor shall cease to hold office if he or she resigns his or her office or is removed by the Bishop or in the case of any Governor who is not a Foundation Governor by the Trust Board (which the Directors reserve the power to do without the need to provide any reasons for removal). Any vacancy on a Local Governing Committee will trigger an appropriate appointment or election and must be notified to the Trust Board and the Diocesan Department for Education.
10. Any person who would not be eligible to be a Director in accordance with the Trust's Articles of Association will not be eligible for appointment or election to the Local Governing Committee and must resign from the Local Governing Committee if they become ineligible. Details of eligibility to serve as a Governor are set out in the Governor Code of Conduct.
11. If any Governor is also an employee of the Trust and ceases to be employed to work at the Academy or within the Trust, then he or she shall be deemed to have resigned from the Local Governing Committee and shall cease to serve on the Local Governing Committee automatically on termination of his or her employment.
12. Where a person who serves on the Local Governing Committee resigns his or her office or is removed from office, that person or, where he or she is removed from office, those removing him or her, shall give written notice thereof to the Chair of the Local Governing Committee, copied to the Clerk to the Local Governing Committee.

Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair

13. Subject to any direction by the Trust Board, Governors shall each school year (typically at the first meeting of the year) elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from amongst the Foundation Governors.
14. The Chair and Vice Chair will cease to hold office if they no longer serve as a Governor. The same person cannot hold more than one office.
15. The Clerk to the Local Governing Committee shall act as chair during that part of any meeting at which the Chair and Vice Chair are elected.
16. Any election of the Chair and Vice Chair which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.
17. More details as to the role and responsibilities of the Chair are set out in the Governor Code of Conduct.

Meetings

18. Subject to LGC approval of the minutes of the meeting, the minutes will be kept and signed at the same or next subsequent meeting by the person acting as chair thereof. The minutes shall include a record of:
 - 18.1. all appointments of officers made by the Local Governing Committee; and
 - 18.2. all proceedings at meetings of the Local Governing Committee and of committees/working parties of the Local Governing Committee including the names of all persons present at each such meeting.
19. The Clerk shall ensure that copies of minutes of all meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be provided to the Central Team as soon as reasonably practicable after those minutes are approved.
20. Subject to this Scheme of Delegation, the Local Governing Committee may regulate its proceedings as Governors think fit, provided at all times that there is openness and transparency in matters relating to the Local Governing Committee. The Local Governing Committee is expected

to meet at least once a term but may meet more often if felt appropriate or if requested to meet by the Trust Board.

21. The Trust Board may direct the Local Governing Committee to allow either Directors, any member of the Trust's Executive Team or a Governor from another Local Governing Committee in the Trust to attend meetings of the Local Governing Committee. Such persons may engage in discussion but will not be permitted to vote on any resolution of the Local Governing Committee.
22. Meetings of the Local Governing Committee shall be convened by the clerk to the Local Governing Committee. In exercising their functions under this Scheme of Delegation the clerk shall comply with any direction:
 - 22.1. given by the Local Governing Committee; or
 - 22.2. given by the Chair or, in their absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of chair, the Vice-Chair.
23. Any three Governors may, by notice in writing given to the clerk, requisition a meeting of the Local Governing Committee; and it shall be the duty of the clerk to convene such a meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable.
24. Each Governor shall be given at least seven clear days before the date of a meeting:
 - 24.1. notice thereof and sent to each Governor at the email address provided by each Governor from time to time; and
 - 24.2. a copy of the agenda for the meeting.
25. provided that where the Chair or, in his or her absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Vice-Chair, so determines on the ground that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the notice of a meeting, and the copy of the agenda thereof are given within such shorter period as they direct.
26. The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda thereof.
27. If three Governors are suggesting that a previous decision made by the LGC is rescinded, they must contact the Central Team for advice on procedural matters.
28. A meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be terminated forthwith if:
 - 28.1. the Governors so resolve.
 - 28.2. the number of Governors present ceases to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Local Governing Committee in accordance with paragraph 31.
29. Where in accordance with paragraph 31 a meeting is not held or is terminated before all the matters specified as items of business on the agenda for the meeting have been disposed of, a further meeting shall be convened by the clerk as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within seven days of the date on which the meeting was originally to be held or was so terminated.
30. Where the Local Governing Committee resolves in accordance with paragraph 31 to adjourn a meeting before all the items of business on the agenda have been disposed of, the Local Governing Committee shall before doing so determine the time and date at which a further meeting is to be held for the purposes of completing the consideration of those items, and it shall direct the clerk to convene a meeting accordingly.

Quorum

31. The quorum for a meeting of the Local Governing Committee, and any vote on any matter thereat, shall be three. The proceedings of the Local Governing Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy on the board or any defect in the election, appointment or nomination of any Governor, providing the defect was not dishonestly made.
32. The Local Governing Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancies on its board, but, if the numbers of persons serving is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing persons may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
33. Subject to this Scheme of Delegation, every question to be decided at a meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the persons present and entitled to vote on the question. Every Governor shall have one vote.
34. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.
35. A resolution in writing, signed by all the persons entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Local Governing Committee, shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Local Governing Committee duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by one or more of the members of the Local Governing Committee and may include an electronic communication by or on behalf of the member indicating their agreement to the form of resolution providing that the member has previously notified the Local Governing Committee in writing of the email address or addresses which the Governor will use.
36. Minutes of meetings of the Local Governing Committee shall be published redacting any aspect which is confidential, or it would not be appropriate to disclose in light of the Data Protection Act 2018.
37. Any Governor shall be able to participate in meetings of the Local Governing Committee by telephone or video conference provided that the Governor has indicated prior to the meeting a wish to do so and has provided appropriate details to enable this and the meeting has access to suitable equipment.

Notices

38. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Terms of Reference and more generally the Scheme of Delegation (including a notice calling a meeting of the Local Governing Committee) shall be in writing or shall be given using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the notice. In this Scheme of Delegation, "address" in relation to electronic communications, includes a number or address used for the purposes of such communications.
39. A notice may be given by the Local Governing Committee to its members either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her registered address or by leaving it at that address or by giving it using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified to the Local Governing Committee by the Governor. A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Local Governing Committee an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to them, or an address to which notices may be sent using electronic communications, shall be entitled to have notices given to them at that address, but otherwise no such member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Local Governing Committee.

40. A Governor present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where necessary, of the purposes for which it was called.
 41. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was sent.
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