

## TRUST BOARD COMMITTEES

### The audit and risk committee

The role of the audit and risk committee is to report to and advise the Board on the adequacy of the Trust's internal control framework, including both financial and non-financial controls and its risk management arrangements. Its specific responsibilities within this remit are to:

- Oversee and approve the Trust's arrangements for internal scrutiny in accordance with the principles set out in the current Academy Trust Handbook ensuring that risks are properly addressed through that scrutiny
- Maintain oversight of the Trust's strategic risk register approving any changes to its analysis of risk on a termly basis. Ensure the risk register is presented to the full Board at least annually
- Consider outputs from other assurance activities by 3rd parties, including ESFA financial management and governance reviews, funding audits and investigations
- Commission internal reports and other assurance reviews as considered necessary,
- consider their outputs, and take the appropriate action, including referring to the resources committee or Board where expenditure is required. E.g. in relation to health and safety, safeguarding and other due diligence
- Review the audit findings and actions taken by the Trust's managers in response to both internal and external scrutiny, ensuring that recommendations are addressed or the rationale for not doing so is robust. Authorise relevant management responses to internal scrutiny
- Annually review and consider the quality of external audit with a view to advising the Board and academy Trust members about the auditor's reappointment, dismissal or retendering
- Report back to the full Trust Board on:
  - The implications of the statutory annual report and financial statements on the overall financial health of the Academy and;
  - Whether the Trust Board should approve the statutory annual report and financial statements for submission to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Companies House
- Ensure the annual report and financial statements are produced in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction
- Ensure overall statutory compliance
- Determine audit and risk related policies as detailed in the Trust policy schedule.

### Resources committee

The role of the resources committee is to strategically oversee all financial matters, ensuring that these resources are focussed towards maximising the quality of education provided to pupils. Its specific responsibilities within this wider remit are:

- To review and interrogate the annual Trust budget and 3 year plans and report back to the

Board on:

- The implications of the budget on the Trust's overall financial health of the Trust and;
- Whether the Board should approve the annual budget and 3 year plan for submission to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
- To regularly review the management accounts and benchmarking reports, reporting material variances to budget or other concerns back to the Trust Board
- Approval of unbudgeted expenditure outside that delegated to the Trust executives within the finance policy, escalating to the Trust Board where appropriate
- Ensure statutory compliance in regard to all functions within the remit of this committee
- To approve finance policies as detailed in the Trust's policy schedule document and monitor compliance with and impact of these policies

### Standards committee

The role of the standards committee is to maintain oversight of the quality of education and pastoral care provided across the Trust at a strategic level. Its specific responsibilities within that remit are:

- Agree Trust level targets for pupil academic and non-academic outcomes and monitor progress towards these targets, paying particular attention to outcomes for those pupils in vulnerable schools and groups vulnerable to underachievement
- Monitor the extent to which the Trust's curriculum and teaching and learning strategy is effective in meeting the Boards intent and supporting targeted outcomes
- Monitoring the effectiveness of pastoral care including safeguarding
- Determine the Trust's policies related to education matters as detailed in the Trust policy Schedule.

### People committee

The role of the people committee is to provide oversight, act as a sounding board and make strategic recommendations to the board with regard to people related priorities across the trust. It is delegated to take decisions in respect of:

- Approving people related policies falling outside the executive team's delegated remit.
- Approving trust organisational leadership change proposals
- Shortlisting of candidates for the appointment as either trustees or Members
- Approving the appointment of LGB chairs and if necessary confirm the suspension or removal of local governors

### Executive pay committee

The executive pay committee is delegated to determine annual pay awards for the following employees based on the recommendations arising from their appraisals: Trust Leader; CFO; Trust, Education Leaders; Regional Education Leaders.

### Local Community Councils (LCC)

Local Community Councils (LCCs) operate as sub-committees of the Trust Board and play an integral role within the Inspire Partnership's governance structure. Their delegated responsibilities reflect and reinforce the Trust's core values.

LCCs embody the principle of *community first* by strengthening the relationship between schools and their local communities. Through regular engagement and acting as a sounding board, they gather feedback from parents, pupils, staff, and the wider community, ensuring that local voices inform school priorities and trust-wide strategy.

In line with the value of collaboration *matters*, LCCs work in partnership with headteachers, executive leaders, and the Trust Board, sharing insights, resources, and best practice to enhance governance and school improvement across the Trust.

By providing constructive and informed challenge, LCCs contribute to *excellence in everything*, supporting schools to uphold high standards and focus on continuous improvement from the perspective of children and families.

LCCs also champion *equity in everything*, prioritising the well-being and inclusion of all pupils, especially those from vulnerable or underrepresented groups. By listening carefully to their communities, they help ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education and meaningful opportunities.

Regular school visits, active participation in school life, and structured feedback processes ensure that LCCs maintain visibility and influence, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and ongoing development across both individual schools and the wider Trust.