

Governance in Multi Academy Trusts

Governance arrangements for academies are set out in the Articles of Association for the academy trust and (where a MAT has determined that local governing bodies or local committees shall apply) in the Scheme of Delegation.

Academies convert on the so-called “As-Is” principle, so that a Voluntary Aided school converting to academy status should have majority foundation representation at all levels of governance, whilst a Voluntary Controlled school should have minority foundation representation at all levels of governance (i.e. up to 25%).

An Academy Trust is a charitable company responsible for the running of the academy. The Academy Trust is responsible to the Secretary of State for educational standards and finance.

The Academy Trust has two layers of Governance: The Members who operate at a strategic level with ultimate control over the direction of the Academy Trust and the Directors who are responsible for the day-to-day management, operation and educational matters of the Academy Trust. A local governance body is a committee of the board of Directors.

The Directors roles and responsibilities:

- setting the Vision
- ensuring the quality of educational provision
- challenging and monitoring the performance of each Academy in the Trust
- holding senior leaders to account
- management of the Academy’s business affairs
- appointment, management, and dismissal of staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- developing and implementing a range of policies and procedures
- attending meetings of the Board of Directors
- managing the Academy Trust’s finances
- maintaining and developing the sites and premises
- procuring a range of goods and services and entering into contracts on behalf of the academy
- preparing the company’s financial accounts and annual report for a signature by the chair of the Trust

Member's roles and responsibilities:

- ensuring compliance with Memorandum and Articles of the Academy Trust and the Church Supplemental Agreement
- acting within the powers which are set out in the Articles of Association
- make changes to the Articles of Association
- promoting the objects of the company and acting in the interests of the company
- appoint auditors
- appoint and remove directors

Exeter Diocese Education Network (EDEN) will always be a corporate foundation Member of an academy trust that includes a Church of England school or schools. The Members are the owners (or “quasi-shareholders”) of the academy trust and will appoint the Directors. The Articles of Association and the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education should be consulted about the appropriate arrangements for appointments.

The site trustees are normally either the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education or the Vicar and Church Wardens of the parish.

Occasionally a separate trust is the trustee. The EDBE normally has a record of the trusteeship of a Church of England school.

Those who are appointed by EDEN to directorships of academy trusts must have appropriate skills to discharge this function effectively, and they must be committed to promoting the distinctive Christian character of the school(s). The EDBE's expectation is that such appointed directors shall normally be practising members of the Church of England. However, where it is not possible to source such individuals, the EDBE welcomes others to be considered for appointment, providing they demonstrate a commitment to promoting the distinctive Church character of the school and maintains a close liaison and co-ordination with EDEN through the representative.

In all cases in an academy scenario, the EDBE expects the local church to be fully consulted about the nomination/appointment of foundation representatives to academy trusts and local governing bodies.

