



EDUCATION, SAFEGUARDING & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE | REVIEWED OCTOBER 2026

TOGETHER WE LEARN | TOGETHER WE GROW | TOGETHER WE THRIVE

AMBITION • BELONGING • KINDNESS • JOY

General Terms / Membership

- The Education, Safeguarding & Standards Committee (ESS) will be appointed by and report to the Board of Trustees. Members of the Committee will be drawn from among the Board of Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees will appoint the Chair of the Committee and the Chair's term of office will be one year.
- The Committee will have a minimum of three members.
- A quorum shall be the majority.
- The ESS Committee will liaise and consult with other Committees where necessary, and will at all times have regard to the Academy Trust's Vision & Ethos, Trust Policies, and the Strategic Plan. All Committees must have regard to safeguarding and equalities issues in their work.
- Each Committee will annually review and recommend changes to its Terms of Reference.
- Unless the Board of Trustees has delegated powers of decision in writing to the ESS Committee, recommendations from the Committee must be considered and decided by the full Board.

The Committee will exercise only those responsibilities and decision-making powers formally delegated by the Trust Board through the Scheme of Delegation and these Terms of Reference.

Delegated scope

Meetings

- The Trust Board will determine how often the ESS Committee should meet. Normally, this will be at least once per term, with provision for additional meetings where required. The Committee will set its meeting schedule in response to business need.
- The quorum for the Committee shall be the majority of members of that committee.
- In the absence of the Chair, the Committee will choose an acting Chair for that meeting from among the Trustees present.
- The Head Teacher (CEO & Accounting Officer) will normally attend (even if not in the capacity of a Trustee member) the Committee meetings with other Academy Leaders as appropriate. The Committee may seek independent professional advice and request their attendance at meetings if it considers this necessary.
- The Committee meetings will normally be clerked by the Governance Professional. In the absence of the Governance Professional, the Committee will appoint a clerk for that meeting. ESS meetings will not be open to the public but minutes will be made publicly available. Information relating to a named person or any other matter that the Committee considers confidential should be recorded by the Clerk Governance Professional in a Part 2 Confidential Minute and excluded from the public record.

- The draft minutes of each meeting will be circulated with the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees and will be presented at that meeting by the Committee Chair (or in their absence another member of the Committee).
- Any decisions taken under ESS's delegated powers should be communicated to the board.
- Any recommendations that the ESS Committee will put to the Board, must be agreed by a simple majority of Committee members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the chair of the Committee will exercise a casting vote.

Remit and Responsibilities

The primary purpose of the Education & Standards Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the educational provision in line with the Trust's Vision & Ethos statement, its policies and its Strategic Plan; to assist the Board in monitoring student progress and driving improvement; and to assist the Board to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all learners and staff across the Trust. The Committee shall also take on other work as directed by the Board.

The Head Teacher (CEO and Accounting Officer) and members of the Academy Leadership Team will normally attend the Committee meetings. The Committee may seek independent professional advice and secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

The Education, Safeguarding & Standards Committee will:

Curriculum & Assessment

- Monitor and evaluate the quality, breadth and effectiveness of the curriculum, including enrichment and cultural capital opportunities, to support pupil aspirations.
- Evaluate the accuracy and impact of assessment systems and pupil progress tracking to identify gaps and inform strategic interventions.
- Monitor the progress, attainment, and achievement of all pupils, identifying any underachieving groups.
- Monitor and evaluate inclusion and provision for all, with a particular focus for vulnerable groups, including SEND, disadvantaged pupils, and EAL learners.

Early Years and Transition

- Monitor and evaluate the quality of EYFS provision and the effectiveness of transition into Year 1, focusing on readiness and continuity of learning.

Teaching Quality and Leadership

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of leadership and management in the school.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of teaching quality on pupil progress and standards of achievement.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of continuing professional development (CPD) on staff performance, making recommendations to the FESA where appropriate.

Safeguarding, Inclusion, and Wellbeing

- Monitor and evaluate safeguarding arrangements and pupil wellbeing initiatives.

- Ensure the requirements of children with special needs and wider vulnerabilities are met.
- Monitor attendance and behaviour, ensuring policies promote positive behaviour and high attendance rates.
- Ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils.

Community Engagement and Aspirations

- Monitor and incorporate the views of pupils, parents, and the local community to inform decisions.
- Review and evaluate opportunities to raise pupils' aspirations and understanding of future pathways.
- Monitor the school's publicity, public presentation, and relationships with the wider community.

Resources, Finance, and External Review

- Make recommendations to the FESA on curriculum-related spending and CPD to ensure needs are met.
- Set priorities for improvement and monitor the impact of improvement plans related to the Committee's remit.
- Monitor student leaving data to understand reasons for mobility.
- Consider recommendations from external reviews (e.g., Ofsted, school improvement advisers) and monitor implementation.
- Ensure all statutory reporting and website publication requirements are met.

Policies

- Receive and consider revisions to policies that relate directly to the work of the Committee.
- The schedule of policies delegated to the Committee will be maintained and reviewed by the Board.

General

- Endeavour to identify to the Trustees matters that expose Trustees to claims for which Trustees could be held personally liable;
- Secure the attendance or advice of external, professional advisers as and when required;
- Liaise with and assist other Committees as appropriate.

Reporting

- The Committee will report to the Trust Board through a written Chair's report summarising key decisions, recommendations, assurance and matters requiring Board attention. The Chair, or another Committee member in the Chair's absence, will present these points at the subsequent Board meeting.