

**Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust
Ethos and Governance Committee**

Terms of Reference

Purposes of the Committee

The over-arching purpose of the ODST and (by delegation) all of its committees, is to deliver our vision: the belief in educational excellence. We aim to serve our pupils, staff, parents and their local community by providing academies with the highest levels of academic rigour and pastoral care. Through this purpose, the Board/Committee(s) will enable ODST's academies to be places where children and young people develop and thrive intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually.

The specific purposes of this Committee are:

- To ensure that the distinctive Christian values of ODST are upheld and supported in its academies by and through evaluation, particularly SIAMS.
- To advise ODST on establishing, maintaining and developing a high quality of network and partnership working
- To monitor the communication between the Trust, its academies, their local parishes and deaneries, and the wider community.
- To monitor the spiritual and pastoral care of all members of our academy communities, ensuring that leaders are supported and trained.
- To seek to develop an appropriate provision of Chaplaincy in every academy.
- To monitor SIAMS and Section 48 inspections across the academies.
- To oversee appointments to LGBs and governance functions including admissions.

Membership

- Membership and terms of reference will be reviewed annually by the Board (see below).
- The Committee will be comprised of three Trustees and up to three co-opted members.

Quorum

The quorum shall be three members of the committee of whom two must be Trustees. (It is the responsibility of officers to alert the clerk in the event of known non-attendance of meeting).

Meetings

The Committee will meet as necessary and at least three times per year. The Committee shall elect a Chair annually who will be responsible for ensuring the agendas are produced, minutes of the meeting are taken and a report presented to the subsequent Board of Trustees meeting.

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- To monitor the effectiveness and impact of partnership between key stakeholders.
- To support and monitor academies' empowerment of children and young people particularly through pupil voice.
- To monitor the effectiveness of academy to home communication with a focus on how effectively the academy communicates its values to the parents and wider community thereby ensuring quality communication through listening to parents in the community and responding to need.
- To promote and develop and evaluate the effectiveness of links between academies and local parish churches.

- To monitor the pastoral care and safeguarding of children in ODST academies including how the academy meets the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.
- To ensure that all ODST schools are compliant with statutory safeguarding requirements and strategies.
- To support and develop the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of our academies including the provision and impact of collective worship.
- To monitor personal development, behaviour and welfare outcomes for schools in the Trust.
- To oversee Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Equality and Diversity Policies for academies in ODST, monitoring and reviewing their implementation.
- To promote and develop links between ODST academies and other faith organisations.
- To monitor and critically evaluate the vision and values of ODST itself, ensuring effective communication of that to academies and other stakeholders.
- To work collaboratively with the Diocesan Board of Education to support the fulfilment of its core aims and statutory responsibility for church academies.
- To ensure that the Local Governing Bodies meet the requirements of the appropriate Scheme of Delegation (VA/VC/Community) and have oversight of the appointment of LGB members.

Powers of the Committee

The Committee has full delegated decision making powers other than for decisions involving additional expenditure in excess of funds delegated to it, which should be referred to the full Board of Trustees.

No vote on any matter may be taken unless the majority of members are present. The Chair has a casting vote.

Recording and reporting of meeting

A clerk is appointed to the committee, who will produce minutes of all meetings to be circulated before the full ODST Trustees' meeting following the committee meeting.

Review of terms of reference and membership

This will be undertaken annually, by the full Board of ODST.

Date last reviewed: 25th September 2023