

NCLT

Scheme of Delegation for Academies

2021/22

Responsibility of: Date of Approval: Review Cycle: Governance Manager 12 October 2021 Annual



Scheme of Delegation

Rationale

The underlying principles for this Scheme of Delegation are;

That all schools/colleges are in a partnership of equals irrespective of their length of membership

- 1. NCLT is a registered charity and it remains true to its aims and objectives.
- 2. NCLT is mindful that its function is to ensure that all statutory obligations are met (there are differences in the governance arrangements of maintained schools and academies).
- 3. NCLT Board's intention is to be as light-touch as possible within the Scheme of Delegation in order for Advisory Group and Directors to make decisions at a local level to fully meet the needs of the students and the local community.

This Scheme of Delegation recognises that NCLT is adopting a growth model. This Scheme of Delegation will be reviewed and amended.

The growth model for the Trust

NCLT recognises that its structure will need to evolve as the Trust grows. These phases reflect the Trust's initial ideas about the structure of the Trust over time and will be reviewed and the structure amended in line with the size, performance and needs of the organisation.

Our Vision

Vision - Our colleges and school will make a significant difference to the lives of young people. As a result, together we will make a positive contribution to social mobility.

Commitment- To provide an outstanding, consistent experience through collaboration.

Our Values – The 5 Cs

- Candour To be open, honest and fair to everyone
- Challenge To have high expectations of ourselves and each other
- **Collaboration** To learn from each other for the benefit of all
- Commitment To be dedicated, resilient and strive for continuous improvement
- Care To be considerate of others and their needs

Excellence in education should be everyone's right

We believe that high quality education should not be the preserve of those living in the right catchment areas. That's why as a Trust we have targeted geographical regions of educational underperformance, where we can make a significant impact on the lives of the region's young people.

Thinking in hundreds, counting in ones

Although we work with thousands of young people, it's important to us that we treat every student as an individual. That's why we spend so much time interviewing young people as part of our application and enrolment process, so we understand their aims and goals well enough to ensure we have put them on the right path to success.

Learn...succeed...progress

We want every student to enjoy their time with us. Our primary focus is on their academic success, but we also provide them with a wide range of extracurricular and super-curricular activities, from music, foreign exchanges, performance and sport through to World Challenge expeditions to India and Mozambique, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Our young people need both academic success and life skills to help them flourish in university and the world of work.

Trust Structure, Communication and Influence

New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT)

Each school/college is ultimately governed by the Trust (NCLT). NCLT shall have regard to (but for the avoidance of doubt shall not be bound by) any *guidance* as to the governance of the academies that the Secretary of State may publish. All powers of NCLT are vested in the Members. The Board consisting of the Members will determine the powers which may be delegated to the Board of Directors, and in turn the Board of Directors will determine the powers which may be delegated to Advisory Groups. In normal circumstances, most of the powers of the Members will be delegated, and the Members serve to appoint Directors and to have oversight of the Trust as a whole.

Advisory Groups

Each Academy will be served by its own Advisory Group. Established Advisory Groups will be used to nurture and develop the new Advisory Groups as the Trust grows. This strong focus on coaching and mentoring will support fidelity to the Trust's vision and values.

The membership of the Advisory Group and delegated authority shall be for NCLT to decide. When additional academies join the Trust, NCLT will consult with the Chair of the predecessor governing body about membership of Advisory Groups. NCLT will also take account of the performance of each of the academies.

Every half term, the Chair of the Board of Directors will meet the Chair(s) of the Advisory Groups. This meeting has:

- A planning dimension where forthcoming agendas and training sessions are planned
- A coaching dimension since the Chairs of Advisory Groups are learning from the Chair of Directors
- A communication dimension the CEO and Clerk are also present.

Meetings will be called as and when required by the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Trust Executive Team (TET)

This forum enables principals/headteachers and senior Trust post holders to meet with the CEO, every half term. This meeting has both a communication and planning dimension and is a forum for discussion of Trust matters, as well as a means of assessing the impact of Trust senior roles.

Central Functions

As a family of academies we aim to have the greatest impact by pooling and sharing key resources. We recognise that the success or failure of any one Academy is the success or failure of the Trust as a whole. For this reason, central functions and budget levies are intended to support the Trust as a whole, rather than a simple purchase of services by individual schools and colleges from the centre. Budget levies are to support our common aims and endeavours as a Trust and as a family, as well as to provide core services and functions to individual academies.

NCLT recognises that some academies may require additional support from the Trust, depending on their needs and circumstances. As such, the core resource fee will be determined as follows:

For post-16 colleges the services below are currently provided at cost. This cost is shared between the colleges on the basis of student numbers on roll:

- All HR function
- All finance functions including payroll
- All MIS functions including Cedar
- All student services functions
- All estate and Health & Safety functions
- All IT support and provision
- All central reprographics functions

For pre 16 schools the level of support required will determine the resource fee to be paid. This will be determined in negotiation with the Headteacher/Board of Directors prior to joining following the due diligence process, and will be reviewed annually.

EIF	Academy Headteacher (Delivers on Academy performance and pupil experience)	Local Advisory Group (Monitors and challenges Academies)	Executive Headteacher (in the absence of an EH, CEO to agree)	CEO and other Executive Members as appropriate (e.g. COO and Director of HR) (Approves key items and supports Academies)	Board of Directors (Ultimately accountable and approves all statutory policies and finance)
Academy Improvement	 Develops and implements Academy strategy, culture and ethos in line with overall Trust mission and vision Develops and then proposes Academy priorities and Quality improvement plan (QUIP), including suggesting targets Delivers as per QUIP and targets. Hold all academy staff members to account To have operational Academy leadership Initiates Academy expansion strategy Complies with all Trust policies and implements Trust systems 	 Ensure that the values, ethos, culture, mission, policies and strategies of the Trust permeate throughout each Academy within the cluster. Ensure that within each Academy, culture and relationships between leaders, staff, students and parents are based on mutual respect, trust, challenge, high expectations and accountability, so that staff and students excel. Review the overall effectiveness and performance of the Academy in order to develop robust self-evaluation and quality improvement plans. Provide review, challenge and support to ensure that the Academy makes good progress in relation to improvement plans, 	 Monitors Academy culture and ethos ensuring alignment to the Trust ethos and culture Approves QUIP and Academy priorities Approves Academy Key Performance Indicators Holds Academy Headteachers to account against performance Monitors and evaluates Academy performance; Decides on the levels of strategic alignment and harmonisation of Trust policies dependant on Academy outcomes Sets Academy targets with CEO In negotiation with the wider Executive Trust team (TET) deploys support to Academies for the implementation of the Quip, improvement of teaching quality; delivery of assessment processes and analysis of Academy data. 	 Develops and implements Trust strategy ensuring Academy priorities/QuIP fit within the overarching strategy Agrees support identified by Executive Headteacher to Academies to support implementation of QUIP, improvement of teaching quality, management of assessment processes and analysis of Academy data Has strategic responsibility of Academy performance Holds Executive Headteacher to account on Academy improvement and all operational areas Ensures all Trust policies and systems are being followed Develops and approves Academy expansion strategy. 	 Ensures clarity of vision and ethos, and sets the strategic direction of the Trust:-holds CEO to account on Academy improvement and all operational areas. To endorse annually the 3 year strategic plan for the Trust as a whole Review the progress of the Trust in relation to these strategic plans Upholding the Trust's standards of conduct and values Review the performance of the Trust as a whole and each Academy within it Ensure that robust self- evaluation and improvement planning takes place at all levels of the Trust and that Advisory Groups are reviewing progress and taking appropriate steps to drive improvement

Scheme of Delegation for Academies (Changes to be approved 12.10.2021)

	strategic robust plans and	 Recommends to the CEO 	
	targets.	any policy changes	
	 Review quality assurance 		
	systems and standards		
	frameworks that exist		
	within the Academy and		
	monitor their impact.		
	 Ensure that robust and 		
	incisive annual performance		
	review (APR) is in place, in		
	accordance with Trust		
	policies and procedures.		
	 Monitor overall staff 		
	performance and		
	improvement, and		
	strategies for talent		
	management and staff		
	development.		
	 Provide challenge and 		
	support for senior leaders		
	which sustains constant		
	focus on the link between		
	effective leadership, staff		
	performance and		
	development, and		
	outcomes for students.		
	 Provide review and 		
	challenge so that staff and		
	resource deployment		
	within the Academy best		
	supports outcomes for		
	students		
	 Promote cooperation and 		
	collaboration between the		
	Academies in the Trust.		
	• Recommend to the Board		
	of Directors, where		
	appropriate, individuals to		

Q of I	 Develops and proposes curriculum, teaching and assessment model Propose and deliver staffing model and associated Academy timetable Improves teaching quality through the annual performance review (APR) and CPD Leads on all aspects of teaching and learning strategy 	 be considered for appointment to the Advisory Group To review the overall attainment and progress of students within the Academy, including that of groups of pupil, and in different types of provision Support Academy leaders to ensure that the proportion of students completing courses and achieving meaningful qualifications (including English and maths) is high or improving rapidly, and that courses are relevant to students career aims or learning goals Monitor closely the programmed and and and and and and and and and an	 Approves curriculum, teaching and assessment model Monitor quality of education, identify needed improvements and offer relevant support Agrees the Academy staffing and curriculum model 	
Q of I	 Improves teaching quality through the annual performance review (APR) and CPD Leads on all aspects of teaching and learning strategy 	• Support Academy leaders to ensure that the proportion of students completing courses and achieving meaningful qualifications (including English and maths) is high or improving rapidly, and that courses are relevant to students career aims or learning goals	relevant supportAgrees the Academy staffing and curriculum	
		 Will ensure the Academies curriculum offer is aligned to the Trusts vision and ethos providing high quality education for all its students including meeting any statutory duties e.g Relationships and Sex Education 		

	B & A	 Proposes and delivers Behaviour and Attendance Policy Leads all exclusion processes 	• Ensure that high expectations for pupil behaviour, attendance and punctuality permeate throughout the Academy	 Approves Behaviour and Attendance Policy Monitor behaviour and attitudes, identifies improvements and needed support Support Headteacher with exclusion processes, where 		
Executive Headteacher Recruitment				required	• Conducts Executive Headteacher recruitment and APR with engagement from Chair of Directors and other Directors as determined by CEO	 Supports the recruitment process, and agrees salary range of Executive Headteacher
APR and Pay Review					 Chair of Directors and other Directors as determined by CEO 	
Headteacher Recruitment, APR and Pay Review				 Support CEO in Headteacher recruitment Conducts APR of secondary Headteachers with support of CEO 	 Conducts Headteacher recruitment and appraisals with engagement from Chair of Directors and other Directors as determined by CEO Determines salary point and pay progression of Headteachers within set range as approved by Board of Directors. Reviews and recommends salary range to Board of Directors 	• Board of Directors approves salary ranges of Headteachers and senior staff
Finance Procurement and Estates		 Monitors budget and financial targets Works with Academy Business Manager 	 Finance and audit functions are not performed by Advisory Groups. Financial handling will be managed 	 Works with SBM/COO to prepare and propose budget and 3-year forecasting 	 Sets financial policies with COO for approval of Audit Committee and Board of Directors 	• Ensure the effective financial management of the Trust and its Academies ensuring compliance with

 (SBM)/COO to prepare and propose budget and 3-year forecasting Works with SBM/COO on preparation of end-of-year Academy finance 	centrally by the Trust. Academy budgets, financial planning, financial policies and procedures, review of management accounts will be managed by the COO	• Supports secondary Headteachers with Academy finances	 Recommends to Board of Directors: - Academy 3 year budgets and forecasts Recommends Academy finance targets to Audit Committee and Board of 	general legislative requirements. Receive and review management accounts to ensure financial probity • Review and approve the
documents • Provides feedback to CEO on performance of central services • Provides rational for pupil premium strategy and spending	 and Board of Directors. Issues relating to audit and financial controls will be managed by the Trust's Audit Committee. The management of estates, a range of core contracted services and large-scale procurement 		 Directors (COO) Supports Headteachers with Academy finances and budget monitoring (COO) Responsible for all Trust finances as delegated by Accounting Officer Recommends the use of reserves to the Board of 	budgets of each Academy, including the determination of the overall Academy budgets to be retained for core central services (resource fee) and to be allocated for procured essential services, based upon the recommendations
	are managed centrally by the Trust, rather than individual Academies or Advisory Groups. This includes cleaning, catering, transport, utilities, printing and IT procurement. This is in order to secure value for money and to free Advisory Groups to focus on their		 Directors CEO or COO have delegated authority from the BOD to sign any contracts approved by TET (up to £100k for Capital projects or up to £500k for other projects) 	 of the Audit Committee The Audit Committee will review the Trusts internal control environment ensuring its effectiveness and that management responses to internal audit reports are adequate and appropriate. Ensure that the resources of
	key responsibility of securing outstanding outcomes for students and teaching and learning. Advisory Groups must: *Notify the Board of Directors if they become aware of any Health and Safety compliance			 the Trust are appropriately allocated to support the Trust's aims and the needs of individual Academies Consider recommendations about risk and financial controls from auditors and the Audit Committee Review the draft financial
	concerns, accidents or near misses that have not already been reported			statements prior to audit and approval of audited financial statements and Directors reports prior to

		To review Pupil Premium spending plan to ensure pupil needs are being met			 submission to the Secretary of State by 31st December Receive the reports of the external auditors Approve any borrowing against the property and assets of the Trust in line with the terms of the Master Funding Agreement Ensure the Trust achieves value for money as well as propriety in the management of funds. Take decisions about the Trust's assets and finances, and reserves as set out in the Financial Regulation Policy Delegate authority and accountability for Pupil Premium to Advisory Board
HR/ Recruitment/ Appraisal	 Ensures HR policies and processes are implemented in line with Trust policy, including: performance appraisals, pay reviews, grievance, capability and disciplinary hearing keeping Director of HR and CEO fully informed Develops and presents staff restructure proposals along with Executive Headteacher Liaises with local level unions. Develops and retains high quality staff 	• Human resources policies and procedures will largely be determined and managed centrally by the Trust, including recruitment and selection policies and procedures, pay frameworks, APRs, discipline, grievance and capability. The responsibility of the Headteacher is to ensure that these policies are implemented appropriately at Academy level, in accordance with the scheme of delegation. The	 Develops staff restructure proposals alongside Headteacher Recruits alongside CEO Headteacher and members of senior team at individual Academy level Re-grading or re- designation of staff in connection with Headteacher Has the power to dismiss, in line with Trust policies and having consulted the Headteacher/CEO/Director of HR 	 Drafts HR and recruitment policies (Director of HR) for Board of Directors approval Approves staff restructures making recommendations to Board of Directors if restructure involves major redundancies Initiates recruitment of Headteacher Supports Academies with ongoing HR guidance (Director of HR) Responsible for additional HR activities including: - 	 Contribute to the recruitment and selection process of the CEO, and other senior Trust posts, as set out in the scheme of delegation Ensure that the performance of the CEO is managed effectively by the Board of Directors and by the Chair of the Board of Directors Review and determine annually the criteria against which the performance of

	 Has the power to dismiss, in line with Trust policies and having consulted the Executive Headteacher and Director of HR Conducts appraisals of senior leadership team Conducts recruitment of senior/middle leaders and other teaching/support staff with support from Director of HR Recommends to Executive Headteacher/CEO creation of new Academy teaching or support posts/allowances Monitors staff workload concerns, staff voice and wellbeing and responds accordingly 	responsibility of the Advisory Group is to ensure that the work of the Academy is carried out in accordance with such HR policies that are determined by the Trust centrally, via the Board of Directors. • Review annual staff voice surveys		 supplying representation for hearings Conducts 'Staff Voice' and reports to BOD including the monitoring staff wellbeing - Recommends Trust pay scales to Board of Directors. Liaising with national level unions when required. Re-grading or re- designation of staff in conjunction with Executive Headteacher Approves new Academy teaching or support posts Has the power to dismiss, in line with Trust policies (CEO and/or Director of HR) 	 the CEO will be judged within annual appraisal To determine the terms and conditions of employment of the CEO, including salary review and progression To contribute to wider HR functions (such as grievances and disciplinary hearings), as set out in the scheme of delegation To review and approve Trust policy, as set out in the scheme of delegation
Compliance with Statutory Obligations	 Ensures compliance with statutory obligations and mandatory Trust policies Responds to all Academy level complaints (HR to be informed) 	 Appoints link governor for safeguarding and SEND (mandatory) and Careers guidance 	 Supports Headteachers with statutory obligations 	 Drafts statutory and Trust policies. 	 Accountable for all compliance Approve all relevant statutory policies Monitors Academy implementation of statutory compliance and risk management
Communication and Community Strategy	 Delivers on Academy communications strategy and Academy visual identity Manages parent, community, local stakeholder and Academy media engagement 	 Supports family communications and community engagement 	• Supports Headteachers with LA and family communications as needed	 Develops communications strategy and guidance Manages crisis communications and reputational risk Supports Headteachers with LA and families as needed 	Approves any significant changes to the overall Trust brand

	 Leads on LA communications Refers any reputational risk to the Executive Headteacher and CEO Works with the Trust Marketing Manager to ensure the Academy has a strong profile both locally and nationally 			 Leads on marketing for Trust and Academies and develops brand guidelines 	
Capital Projects	 Contributes/proposes development of significant building projects and refurbishments Support project delivery with engagement from SBM/COO and Trust Estates Manager 			 Approves significant building projects Leads on significant building project delivery in conjunction with Trust Estates Manager (COO) Engages in project delivery for procurement if subject to OJEU procurement law (COO) 	 Accountable for all compliance with building projects Engages in procurement process for significant projects Grants initial approval of all building projects over £100,000 Monitors, supports and challenges the development of Academy building projects/refurbishments
Health and Safety	 Responsible for local implementation of policies, aligning with Trust policy, including development of Academy procedures and internal reporting on statutory requirements Work with Trust Health and Safety (H & S) Manager to ensure compliance 			 Drafts Trust H&S policies (COO and Trust H&S Manager) Monitors Academy H&S by arranging inspections/audit and supports implementation, as needed. COO and Trust H&S Manager 	 Accountable for ensuring a safe and healthy environment for staff, students and other persons on Trust premises Approves H&S Policy Monitors compliance, with H&S policies and statutory obligations as well as challenging to ensure best practice is followed
Safeguarding	 Ensure Trust Safeguarding Policy is implemented including prevent responsibilities 	 Ensure robust safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures are in place and implemented effectively 	 Responsible for dealing with any safeguarding complaints against 	 To be made aware of any safeguarding complaints against Headteacher 	 Accountable for all legal responsibilities Approves Safeguarding Policy and ensure it is being

	 Appoints Designated Senior Lead (DSL) Manages all safeguarding complaints (exc. against Headteacher) with executive engagement (HR to be informed) Responsible for referrals for children at risk, outside Academy environment Has oversight of Single Central Register (SCR) and ensure it is up to date and well maintained 	 Appoint a designated Advisory Group Safeguarding and Child Protection lead to challenge and support the DSL for each Academy. Ensures prevent statutory duty is being followed. 	 Headteacher (Director of HR) Consulted in responding to any complaint against a staff member (Director of HR) Ensures Safeguarding Policy is being adhered to and in line with statutory policy including prevent responsibilities 	 Consulted in responding to any complaint against a staff member Works with either Headteacher or Executive Headteacher to ensure Safeguarding Policy is in line with statutory policy Responsible for maintaining SCR and ensuring it is up to date 	 implemented across the Trust Appoints designated lead from Board of Directors Ensures Board of Directors and Advisory Groups have completed suitable training Responsible for any safeguarding complaints against the CEO Have oversight of the Single Central Record (SCR) and ensure it is up to date and maintained in line with guidance
SEND	 Implements Trust specific SEND Policy Appoints qualified SENCO Responsible for implementation in line with all relevant statutory requirements 	 Monitors and challenges implementation of SEND Policy and performance of SEND students 	 Supports Academies and monitors implementation of SEND Policy 	• Drafts Trust SEND Policy (SENDCo)	 Accountable for all legal responsibilities Approves SEND Policy
Equalities	 Responsible for ensuring compliance with all aspects of equalities legislation and Trust policy Set Academy equality objectives 	 Monitors the performance of sub-groups 	 Supports Academies in ensuring compliance 	 Scrutinises complaints and protected characteristics (Director of HR) Sets Trust employee equalities objectives 	 Monitors compliance against protected characteristics and employee equalities objectives
Admissions/ Enrolments	Implements Trust policy on admissions and enrolment	 Kept informed of major aspects such as policy and appeals 	 Drafts Academy Admissions Policy and responsible for implementation across Academies Manages admissions appeals 		 Accountable for all legal responsibilities Agree any significant changes to the Admissions Policy i.e. selection criteria
Exclusions	 Responsible for issuing an exclusion, informing all relevant parties and 	 Informed of every permanent exclusion and 	 Provides expert support to help manage exclusions 	 CEO to be informed of all appeals 	 Responsible for holding executive leaders to account for lawful use of

	managing any appeal processes	monitors FTE frequency and trends • Involved in the appeal process of the Trust's Behaviour and Attendance Policy at BOD discretion	appeals (esp. for independent review panel)	 Accountable for all legal responsibilities in respect of exclusions and other potential 'off rolling'. 	 exclusions and other student movements such as potential 'off rolling' Approves Exclusion Policy Monitors exclusion patterns, trends and actions across all Academies Leads the appeal process by appointing Directors and/or Advisors to hear the pupil appeal
FOI/GDPR Requests	 Provides information needed to respond to FOI requests 	 Engaged as needed to respond accurately to requests 		 Responds to all FOI requests (Data Protection Manager) 	 Accountable for ensuring Trust fulfils FOI/ data protection statutory obligations
Financial Probity and Value for Money	 Accountable for financial probity and best value in Academy expenditure 			 Responsible for Trust-wide financial regularity, propriety and compliance (COO) Prepares ESFA returns and Annual Report (COO) Ensure internal audit is conducted and respond to any recommendations – reporting to Audit Committee 	 Accountable for Trust-wide financial regularity, propriety and compliance Responsible for approving Financial Regulations Policy Acts on the advice of its Audit Committee
Trips and Visits	 SLT/Headteacher to approve all trips and visits on recommendation of Health and Safety Manager 	 To approve all residential trips abroad on recommendation of Headteacher and Health and Safety Manager 			 Delegated authority to Local Advisory Board and Headteacher for overseas trips
Scheme of Delegation	 Adhere at all times to Scheme of Delegation 	 Registers and publishes all pecuniary and business interests of advisors Adhere at all times to Scheme of Delegation 		 Draft, review and recommend changes to Scheme of Delegation annually Adhere at all times to Scheme of Delegation 	 Responsible for approving Scheme of Delegation Registers and publishes all pecuniary and business interests of Members and Directors