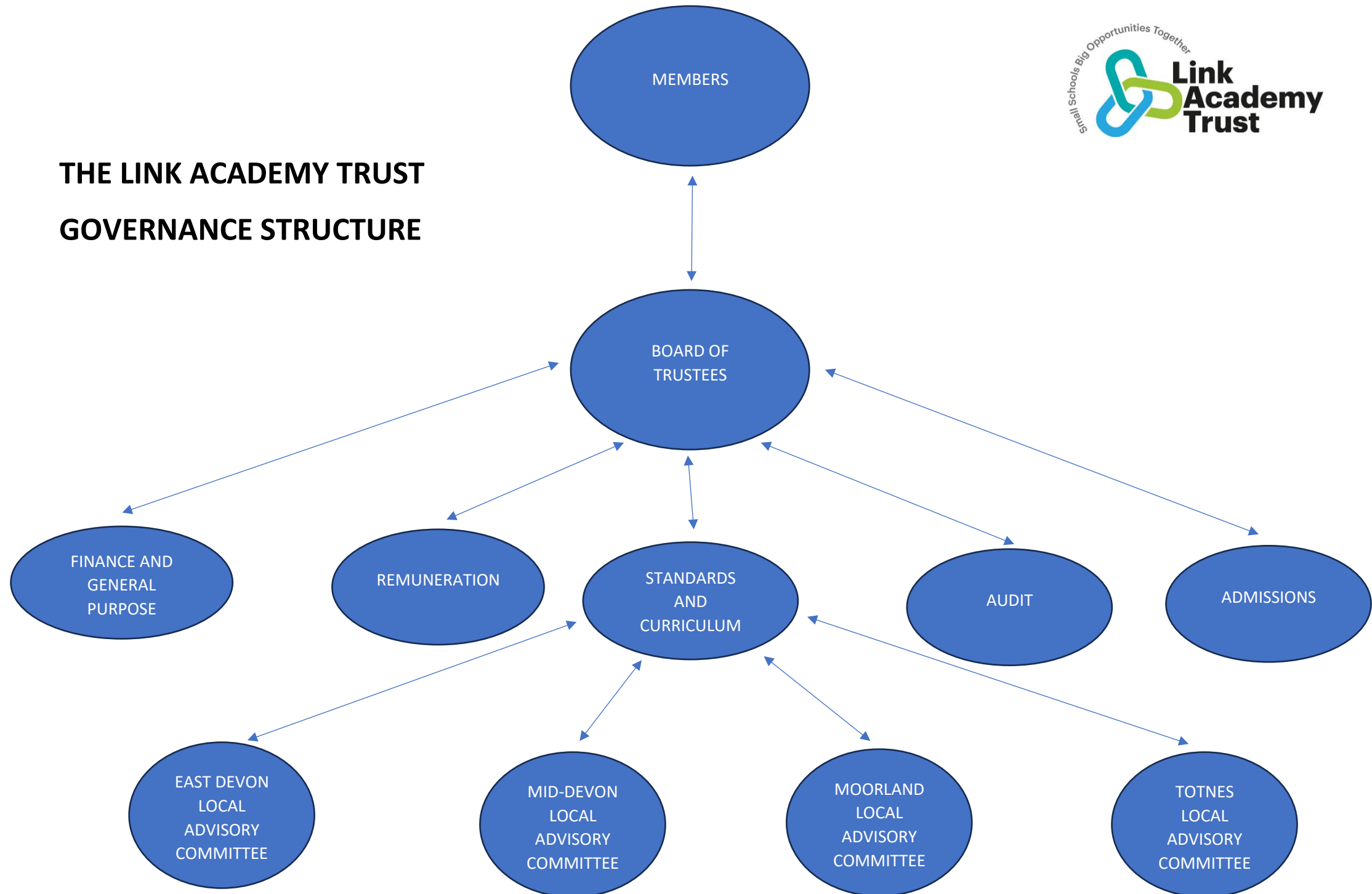


THE LINK ACADEMY TRUST GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



How our Local Governors work with our Academies

Charlotte Roe, our Academy Trust Governance Professional is responsible for supporting the Local Advisory Committees (LAC) to have the greatest impact they can on improving the quality of Teaching and Learning the pupils in the Trust receive. Our watch words are:

Learn, Support and Challenge

Governors are the 'eyes and ears' of the Trustees in the academies. They are of the highest importance in our Trust where every child matters, so we invest in them, and they are passionate about our school successes.

We structure the governor support to give maximum impact and for all our Local Advisory Committees (LAC) to be 'in tune' with each other. The Standards & Curriculum Trustee Committee (S&C) sets out the Annual Focussed Visits programme. Using this model all the LACs are concentrating their interactions with the academies on the half term focus and this then feeds into the S&C meetings to give the Trust picture. Great practice is shared and solutions to any short falls are found. After each school visit, the Local Governor will complete a visit note which is shared in their LAC meeting and then with the Standards & Curriculum Trustees.

At the LAC meeting, not only do the governors discuss the half term focus but also prepare for the upcoming visits to the academies by discussing the focus and ensuring that the governors are confident with what is expected. Supported in this way governors feel very confident to Learn, Support and Challenge what is happening within the academies and report this to Trustees. Training for our governors is therefore 'live', pertinent, and specific to every half term focus so highly successful.

Each LAC meeting is clerked by one of our experienced, professional Clerks and attended by the Governance Professional as a conduit between the Trustees and the LACs. Minutes for each LAC meeting is drawn up and included (along with the visit notes) in the agenda paperwork for the S&C meetings. The observations of the Local Governors in each academy are considered and discussed within the S&C meeting.

Examples of Learn, Support and Challenge in the Trust include:

Learn:

- Governors are invited to attend Learning Walks during the school year, which enables them to hear the expectations of the Academy Head. They can observe lessons, be part of book looks, scrutinise planning and contribute to pupil progress discussions. Our governors are constantly being upskilled and develop a confidence in being able to ask important questions. They understand they have an important role and significant impact.
- Monthly Safeguarding Information packs on a specific topic are not only sent to academies to update staff they are also sent to governors- this ensures each governor has access to ongoing safeguarding training. Governors can join staff INSETS at any time and frequently do.
- Attendance at external training courses and opportunities is encouraged.

Support:

- We support our governors, as above, to perform to the best of their ability.
- Our governors support our academies with their knowledge, expertise and time. We are very lucky that we have very dedicated and knowledgeable governors.

- Governors support Academy activities and in that way develop a very close relationship with parents and can maintain a very strong communication channel to support the Academy Head.
- Our governors will support as responsible adults on visits and often as part of our Forest School work - they develop relationships with the children too.

Challenge:

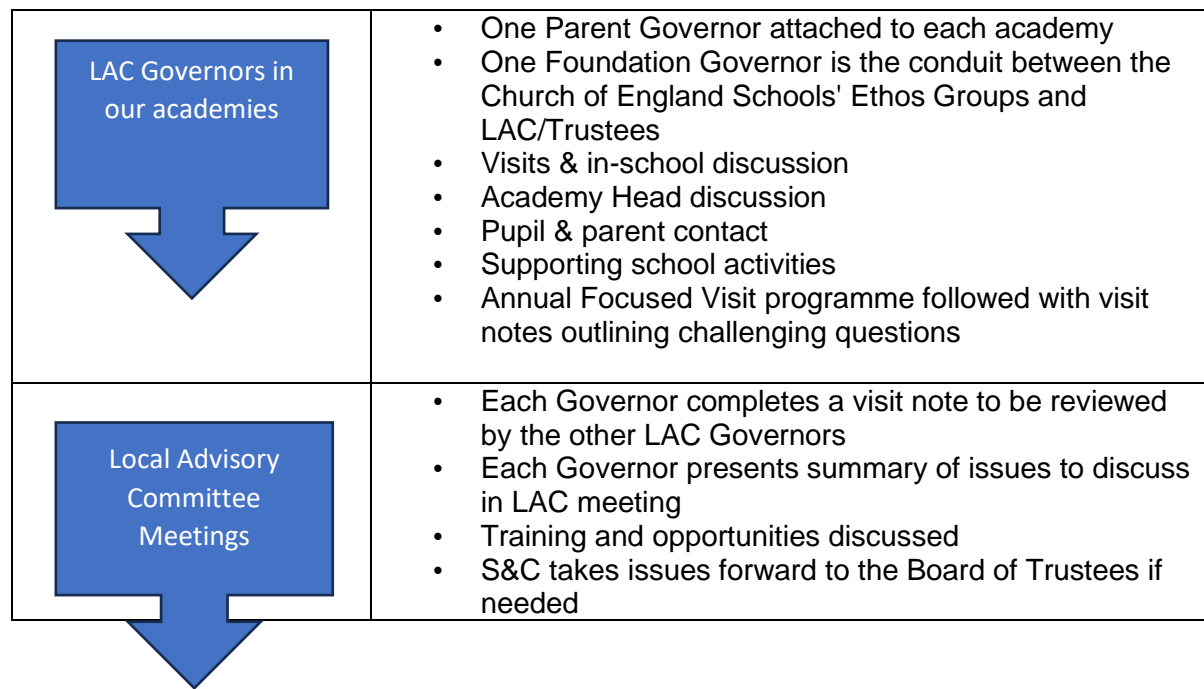
- Our governors are well prepared to challenge Academy Heads. The Governance Professional attends every LAC meeting to provide support and share good practice.
- Our governors challenge the S&C to support improvement in the academies and question actions of the Trust.


Standards & Curriculum Meeting

The S&C meets six times a year and oversees all issues relating to the educational provision of the Trust. As well as the Trustees' attendance, the Director of Education, and representatives of the LACs (usually the Chair or Vice-Chair) attend to ensure an effective two-way communication between Trustees, Executive Improvement Team (EIT) and Local Governors. Other officers from across the Trust are regularly invited to update the meeting on the specific focus. The outcomes from the Local Governors' academy visits and the Minutes from the LAC meetings are reviewed and discussed by the Trustees at S&C meetings. This provides a platform for Trustees to learn from, support and challenge Local Governors in their work, seek further clarification and request further action if necessary. The minutes from the S&C meetings are also reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

For example, if the focus is Attendance, S&C will obtain their information from the Trust Attendance Officer, Director of Education AND the Local Governors' visit notes and LAC Minutes to ensure that they have a clear understanding of the focus across the whole Trust.

The Communication Channel



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAC Minutes and visit notes are forwarded to S&C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAC Chairs attend S&C Meetings and highlight any questions or issues from the LAC meetings• Trustees receive a presentation from Executive Improvement Team (EIT) on the focus in line with the Annual Focused Visit programme• Trustees review and discuss the LACs' Minutes and visit notes• Governance Professional/LAC Chair feeds back Trustees' comments and decisions to the Local Governors• Chair of S&C reports to Board of Trustees for further actions as required.