



Standards & Curriculum Committee

Constitution and Terms of Reference 2023

The Link Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, regulated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). All Members of the Board of Trustees are Directors of the company as well as Trustees of the exempt charity; the term 'Trustee' used in this Policy also means Director.

1. **Constitution**

The Board of Trustees of the Link Academy Trust has established the Standards and Curriculum Committee. The Constitution and Terms of Reference should be reviewed annually; and amendments must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

2. **Membership**

The Board of Trustees will appoint a Trustee to chair the Standards and Curriculum Committee. Membership will include at least three Trustees, one of which to be an education specialist with education experience, and the Chief Executive Officer. The quorum shall be one third of the total members, subject to two Trustees being present.

3. **Attendance at Meetings**

A representative from each of the Local Boards and the Director of Education (DoE) will attend all meetings. The Committee may invite officers to attend, such as members of the Academy Trust Executive Improvement Team (ATEIT), Executive/Academy Heads, according to the agenda and business to be discussed.

4. **Frequency of meetings**

The Standards and Curriculum Committee will normally meet a minimum of five times per academic year.

5. **Authority**

The Standards and Curriculum Committee is authorised to approve expenditure within the levels agreed by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Link Academy Trust's Financial Regulations, funding bodies' and other legal requirements.

6. **Duties**

6.1 The S&C Committee will be the principal committee to receive external and internal reports relating to the educational provision of the Trust. This will include Ofsted and the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), together with Safeguarding.

6.2 The Committee will ensure that Action Plans are drawn up in respect of any external inspection and will monitor the timely implementation of all observations and recommendations, together with progress reports to the inspecting authority where required.

6.3 The Committee will challenge Safeguarding procedures adopted within each Academy and across the Trust to ensure these comply with best practice and relevant legislation. Where

practice falls short, the Committee will set a time limit for improvements to meet the Trust's obligations.

- 6.4 The Committee will provide a forum for the exchange of information on the operation of the schools within the remit of each Local Board. The purpose will be to share best practice and achievements related to the *Learn, Support and Challenge*' cycle of Governors' visits to schools and any issues of concern relating to:
- Delivery of the National Curriculum within the context of each school's resources and environment
 - Pupils' progress against Age Related Expectations
 - Provision for children in receipt of special funding – for example Pupil Premium, Gifted and Talented
 - Compliance with Ofsted requirements and, for Church of England schools, with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist schools (SIAMS)
 - The provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability
 - The arrangements in place for Safeguarding, including actions taken and records kept
 - Monitoring pupil attendance and following up reasons where this falls short of the Trust's target of 96 per cent. And ensuring procedures fulfil statutory requirements especially those around children missing from education
 - Health and Safety – reporting on any issues which have not been picked up and acted upon by staff
- 6.5 The Committee will interrogate pupil performance data for individual academies and across the Trust to ensure there is consistency of progress, achievement, attainment including by year, gender, pupil premium and SEND. Case studies of best practice should be identified.
- 6.6 The Committee will review the draft overarching Academy Trust Strategic Improvement Plan (ATSIP) and its alignment with individual Academy Strategic Improvement Plans (ASIPs), prior to approval by the Board of Trustees. Once approved, the Committee will review progress in achieving the plans and will report any issues where the plans may not be achieved.
- 6.7 The Committee will ensure the timely updating of policies relating the Trust's educational provision and review amendments prior to their submission to the Board of Trustees for approval, where necessary. Whilst providing the opportunity for any issues relating to individual academies to be accommodated, in general all policies and protocols should be consistent across the Trust.

7. **Communication and Reporting Procedures**

The Minutes of the Committee will be circulated to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. Once approved, but subject to any items deemed confidential, the Minutes will be made available to members of the Local Boards and to the Academies within the Trust.

8. **Clerking Arrangements**

The Governance Professional will be the Clerk of the Committee.

Reviewed by Standards and Curriculum: 10th October 2023

Approved by Board of Trustees: 16th October 2023