



The Scheme of Delegation

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Other documents that support the Scheme of Delegation:

1. The Blue Kite Academy Trust Policy Planner
2. The Blue Kite Academy Trust Delegation of Duties
3. The One Vision (COGs) document
4. The Articles of Association
5. Financial Procedures and Administration Management Policy
6. Member, Trustee and Governor Handbook
7. Recruitment Guidance
8. Agenda Planners

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Introduction






The Aim

The Blue Kite Academy Trust aims to be a leading Trust in the region. We will need to be big enough to be secure, financially stable and offer a range of services but not so big that we are unable to know our schools well. We will be of a size that we can develop a strong, cohesive culture and a sense of teamwork and family. We believe that to achieve this we will need to foster a culture of quality and excellence amongst our schools, underpinned by robust evidence-based systems of quality assurance and a progressive programme of professional development.

The Vision

We believe our schools should be vibrant, friendly places where the children are at the heart of everything we do. We believe in teaching skills, sharing knowledge and building special memories that children will take with them through the rest of their lives. We believe that through inspirational teaching, determination, a lot of love and a lot of laughter, the children in our schools can achieve their greatest potential, regardless of their starting points in life. We believe in teaching, modelling values and preparing them for life in the 21st Century and modern Britain, whilst becoming part of a global community. We believe that in doing so we will give them a powerful foundation for their future.

Values

Integrity	Quality	Care	Ambition	Creativity
<p>We act with honesty, integrity, and respect, fostering a positive environment where everyone feels valued.</p> <p>We inspire every child to grow in wisdom (and in church schools in faith and service, rooted in Christian values). We promote active participation in the community and aim to develop qualities of character that enable everyone to flourish collectively.</p>	<p>We strive to be the best in all aspects of our work and practice, responding quickly and effectively to a changing educational landscape. We provide world-class professional development to staff to enhance learning outcomes for our children.</p>	<p>We prioritise the well-being of our children and staff, ensuring they feel safe, cared for, motivated, and supported in all aspects—socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. We value and celebrate diversity within our communities through strong relationships and emphasise the importance of living well together.</p>	<p>We are ambitious in our expectations for both children and staff, working collaboratively and giving opportunities to reach their full potential.</p> <p>Empowering children to flourish and foster a sense of purpose and meaning, developing resilience when they are faced with challenges to help create a better future for all.</p>	<p>We believe in creativity and innovation in education. We use research, technology and training to ensure our schools and children are equipped for life in modern Britain.</p>
				

Governance

Trust Board responsibilities as per the Academy Trust Handbook and Academy Trust Governance Guide

1. Strategic Leadership of the academy trust: the board defines the trust vision for high quality and inclusive education in line with its charitable objects. It establishes and fosters the trust's culture and sets and champions the trust strategy including determining what, if any governance functions are delegated to the local tier.
2. Accountability and assurance: the board has robust effective oversight of the operations and performance of the academy trust, including the provision of education, pupil welfare, overseeing and ensuring appropriate use of funding and effective financial performance and keeping their estate safe and well maintained.
3. Engagement: the board has strategic oversight of relationships with stakeholders. The board involves parents, schools and communities so that decision making is supported by meaningful engagement.

Governance Structure

Members

Academy Trusts are founded by members who have a general duty to exercise their powers, to further the Trust's charitable purpose.

The appointment and regulation of members is set out in the Articles of Association of the Trust and in the Academy Trust Handbook published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

BKAT shall have at least three and up to five members. There is no fixed term of office for a member however a member cannot resign if it would leave less than 3 members in post.

Members shall include the chair of the Trust Board, the Diocesan Corporate Member (Representative), one person appointed by the Diocesan Corporate Member and others appointed in accordance with the articles of association. No Trustee (other than the chair), governors or BKAT staff can be a member whilst they hold that position.

The members:

- Are the subscribers to the memorandum of association (where they are founding members).
- May amend the articles of association subject to any restrictions created by the funding agreement or charity law.
- May, by special resolution, appoint new members or remove existing members.
- Have powers to appoint Trustees as set out in the Trust's articles of association and powers under the Companies Act 2006 to remove Trustees.
- May, by special resolution, issue direction to the Trustees to take a specific action.

- Appoint the Trust's external auditors and receive (but do not sign) the audited annual report and accounts (subject to the Companies Act).
- Have power to change the company's name and, ultimately, wind it up.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting.

The members may be required to meet up to three times a year which will include the Annual General Meeting which takes place in the spring term. The agenda for the meetings will be set by the CEO and Head of Governance, for the AGM this will be in line with company law. Minutes will be taken by the Head of Governance.

If the governance of the Trust by the Board of Trustees becomes dysfunctional the members will ensure the Board has plans to address the issues, otherwise they may deem it necessary to remove the Board or individual Trustees and re-appoint Trustees with the skills necessary for effective governance.

It is important for members to be kept informed about Trust business so they can be assured that the Board is exercising effective governance. Therefore, they will receive minutes of Trust Board meetings and other information considered relevant to their role as determined by the Head of Governance and CEO.

The Trust Board

The Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the Trust in accordance with the provisions set out in the memorandum and articles of association. The Trust Board is accountable for the performance of all the schools within the Trust. The Trust Board will delegate to the CEO responsibility for the day to day operations of the Trust and will determine whether to delegate any governance functions to individuals, committees or Local Governing Bodies.

The Trust Board is the decision-making body of the Blue Kite Academy Trust and is accountable and responsible for all the schools equally in the Trust. The Trust is also the employer of any central staff and those within its schools.

Academy Trustees are both the Charity Trustees and Company Directors of the Trust and are registered at Companies House.

The constitution of the BKAT Trust Board is:

- The Chief Executive Officer appointed by members by ordinary resolution.
- Up to 5 Trustees appointed by members by ordinary resolution.
- 50% of the total number of Trustees appointed by the Diocesan Corporate Member.
- Any number of co-opted Trustees if the Trust Board choose to appoint under article 58.

There is not a specific category of staff Trustee although a member of staff could be co-opted by the Trustees, providing that staff do not exceed more than one third of the total number of Trustees. However, following good practice guidance, the Trust Board have made the decision not to have staff representation (other than the CEO) on the Trust Board but to have staff governors on Local Governing Body level. Elected parent trustees are not required on the Trust Board as they have representation at Local Governing Body level.

Trustees

Statutory Duties

Trustees must comply with the Trust's charitable objects, with company and charity law, and with their contractual obligations under the funding agreement. Company directors' duties are described in sections 170 to 181 of the Companies Act 2006, but in summary are to:

- Act within their powers.
- Promote the success of the company.
- Exercise independent judgement.
- Exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Not accept benefits from third parties.
- Declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements.

The Trust Board have delegated functions to:

- Committees of the Trust Board.
- The Local Governing Bodies.
- Any individual Trustee.
- The Chief Executive Officer (who in turn may delegate to further individuals).
- The Central Team.

Local Governing Body (LGB)

The Trust Board has decided to delegate governance function to LGBs to oversee a school in the academy Trust. Full duties of the LGB are included in the Scheme of Delegation and in the LGB Handbook. Delegation can be removed at any time by the Trust Board.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO has the delegated responsibility for the operation of the Trust including the performance of the Trust's schools, overall responsibility for the operation of the academy Trust's financial responsibilities and ensuring that the organisation is run with financial effectiveness and stability; avoiding waste and securing value for money.

The CEO leads the senior leadership team of the academy Trust. The CEO will delegate senior management functions to the senior leadership team and is accountable to the Trust Board for the performance of the senior leadership team.

As the CEO is also a Trustee, the Trust Board ensures that it manages this conflict of interest effectively.

The Headteachers

The CEO delegates the day to day management of the Trust's schools to headteachers, line managing them in accordance with the Trust's appraisal and performance management policies.

Headteachers share information about how the Trust is managing the school with the LGB so that governors build an understanding about how the school operates and are enabled to monitor and scrutinise how key policies and improvement plans are working in practice.

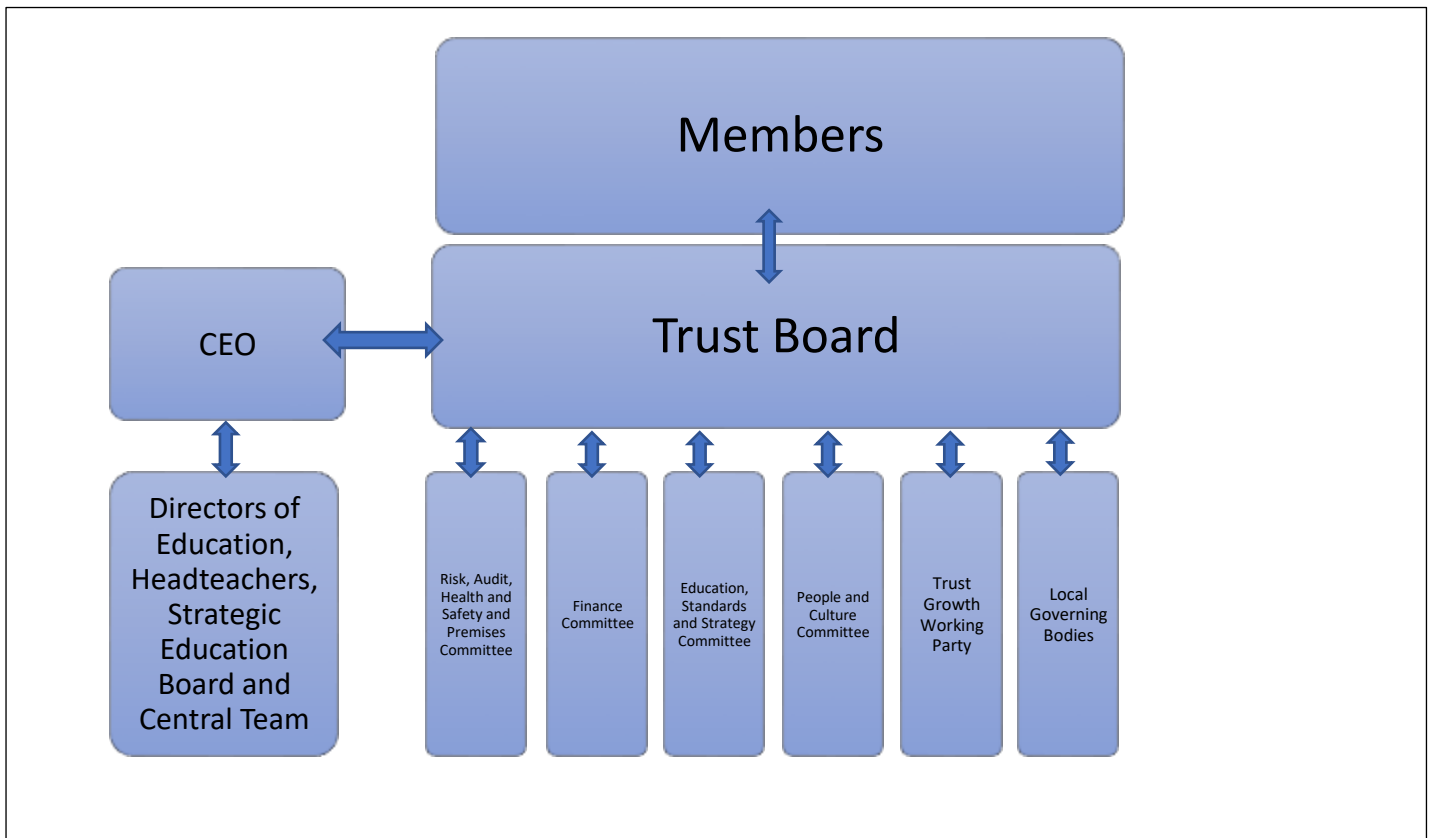
Central Team

The Central Team comprises those employees of the Trust whose role it is to serve all the schools. This comprises the Chief Operations Officer (COO), The Chief Finance Officer (CFO), Head of Human Resources, Head of Governance and their teams.

Everyone involved in governance at the Blue Kite Academy Trust is aware of and accept;

- 'The 7 principles of public life', as set out by Lord Nolan (Appendix A).
- That they must declare conflicts of interest which will be published on the school website.
- That they agree to abide by a code of conduct.
- That they agree their name, category, which body appoints them, term of office, any committees they serve on; and details of any positions of responsibility such as chair or vice-chair are published on the school website.

Pictorial representation of the Governance structure of the Blue Kite Academy Trust



The Chair/Vice Chair

Trustees will elect a chair and vice chair from their number following the BKAT procedure for a term of one or two years maximum. The election will take place at the final meeting of the academic year. If a chair or vice chair resigns mid-term then the new appointee will serve until the last meeting of that academic year in order to re-set the cycle.

Any employees of the Trust may not act as chair or vice chair

If the chair and vice chair is absent from a meeting the Trustees shall choose another (non-staff) Trustee to act as chair for that meeting.

If a chair were to be elected for a 6th year, during that year the Trust Board would review the chair's position and consider if steps are required for succession planning as suggested good practice is that a chair does not serve for more than 6 years.

The chair is responsible for ensuring the effective functioning of the Board and for setting professional standards of governance and accountability for the Board. A role descriptor is available.

Chair's Action

This is where the chair (or vice chair when the chair is unable to do so by reasons of vacancy in the office or otherwise) of the Trust Board is able to make a decision where a delay in exercising a function of the Trust Board would be likely to be seriously detrimental to the Blue Kite Academy Trust, a pupil or their parent/carer or member of staff. However, it is only to be used if an immediate response is required – if there is a possibility that an extra-ordinary Trust Board meeting could be arranged in time to make the decision then this should always be the first option.

The Governance Professional

The Trust must appoint a governance professional to support the Board of Trustees who is someone other than a Trustee, Headteacher or Chief Executive of the Trust. The governance professional will have a job description but in summary will provide:

- guidance to ensure the Board works in compliance with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework, and understands the potential consequences of non-compliance
- advice on procedural matters relating to operation of the Board
- administrative and organisational support

Meetings

There will be a minimum of six meetings of the Trustees each academic year. Meetings of the Trustees shall be convened and conducted as provided by the Articles 108 to 126.

Trust Board meetings can only take place if they are quorate. The quorum for a meeting will be three Trustees or one third of the Trust Board whichever is larger. Unless there is going to be a vote to remove a Trustee or the Chair of Trustees and then the quorum is two thirds.

Minutes

All meetings of the Trust Board including committees and working parties will be minuted by the governance professional. If the governance professional is unexpectedly absent from the meeting then for a one-off occasion a Trustee may take the minutes.

Minutes will be checked by the chair of the meeting and the CEO before being distributed to Trustees via GovernorHub within 10 days of the meeting held. Minutes will be signed electronically via GovernorHub.

Distribution of confidential minutes will be agreed by the chair of the meeting and the CEO.

All those involved in governance can view Trust Board minutes via GovernorHub.

The governance professional ensures the Members receive the minutes via GovernorHub.

Withdrawal from meetings

A Trustee or persons invited to a meeting may withdraw or be asked to leave a meeting if there is a conflict of interest or pecuniary interest declared previously or at the start of the meeting. These may include the following situations (but not exclusive):

- Members of staff need not withdraw unless they have a personal interest which is greater than that of other members of staff.
- Any employee of the Trust other than the CEO may be asked to withdraw from a meeting which considers the pay or appraisal of other employees of the Trust.
- The CEO must withdraw from any meeting which considers his or her own pay or performance appraisal.
- The person acting as the governance professional may continue to act as such unless his or her own pay or disciplinary action against him/her is under consideration.
- A member of the Trust staff cannot be present at a meeting when the appointment of their successor is considered, nor vote on their appointment.
- If there is a disagreement about whether a person is required to withdraw, it is for the other members of the Trust Board or committee to make the decision.

Voting

Every Trustee has one vote and every question to be decided at a meeting of the Trustees shall be determined by a majority vote. When there is an equal division the chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.

Resolutions

Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional.

Areas of Responsibility for the Trust Board

The Trustees focus on three core functions:

1. Strategic Leadership of the academy trust
2. Accountability and assurance
3. Engagement

The Trust Board has a number of areas of responsibility that are detailed below. However, many of these functions can be delegated to committees including the Local Governing Bodies therefore reference to the **Delegation of Duties** document needs to be made.

Vision ethos and strategic direction

Strategic Leadership

A responsibility delegated to a committee has a *

The Trust Board is responsible for setting the Trust's overall vision, strategy culture and values.

The Trust Board should ensure parental engagement takes place.*

The Trust Board is responsible for ensuring compliance with equalities legislation.

The Trust Board is responsible for nominating a safeguarding lead Trustee.

The Trust Board is responsible for nominating a SEND lead Trustee.

The Trust Board is responsible for nominating a Health and Safety lead Trustee.

The Trust Board is responsible for ensuring there is at least one Trustee with specific, relevant skills and experience of financial matters.

The Trust Board is responsible for establishing and appointing Board committees including an audit committee which is statutory if the Trust has an income of over £50million.

The Trust Board is responsible for establishing Local Governing Bodies.

The Trust Board is responsible for ensuring the central team carry out DBS checks and 128 checks.*

The Trust Board is responsible for setting safeguarding policies and ensuring they include reference to child on child abuse, gender issues and allegations against teachers and other staff. Must have due regard for statutory guidance; Keeping Children Safe in Education.
This is delegated to individual schools.

The Trust Board must ensure compliance with health and safety legislation, including food safety, supporting pupils with additional health needs, first aid and fire safety.*

The Trust Board approves all relevant admission arrangements in line with the school admissions code.

The Trust Board will decide which Trustee will be available for an Ofsted inspection at any of the schools within the Trust.

Educational Performance

Accountability and Assurance

The Trust Board is accountable for ensuring that statutory requirements regarding the curriculum and early years foundation stage are met.*

The Trust Board are accountable for ensuring curriculum policies are in place such as Religious education, Relationships, Sex and Health Education and Collective Worship.*

The Trust Board are responsible for ensuring there is a written behaviour policy which promotes good behaviour amongst pupils.*

The Trust Board will ensure that careers guidance is being delivered in any secondary schools within the Trust. (currently N/a)

The Trust Board will ensure compliance with the SEND Code of Practice.*

The Trust Board is responsible for ensuring exclusion decisions are compliant.

The Trust Board is responsible for keeping admission and attendance registers – *delivery carried out by schools*.

The Trust Board is responsible for setting the approach to staff appointment and dismissal with regard to statutory requirements.*

The Trust Board determines the appraisal and performance management process for staff in the BKAT.*

The Trust Board agrees the pay and conditions policy for teachers and support staff.*

The Trust Board are responsible for deciding the CEO pay and benefits – this is delegated to the performance management governors and reported back to the Board.

The Trust Board are responsible for ensuring compliance by the leadership team in relation to appraisal, pay, disciplinary, grievance capability and safer recruitment.*

The Trust Board are responsible for the appointing the accounting officer and the chief financial officer (CFO).

The Trust Board sets the delegated authority limits for financial transactions.

The Trust Board are responsible for establishing controls framework including internal audit.

The Trust Board approve the budget.

The Trust Board review management accounts 6 times a year and the chair receives monthly accounts.

The Trust Board are responsible for holding oversight of cash management across the Trust.*

The Trust Board reviews the pupil premium and sport premium spend – monitoring is delegated to LGBs.*

The Trust Board approves the annual report and accounts.

The Trust Board approve finance policies (charging and remission, procurement).*

The Trust Board ensures compliance with ESFA requirements.*

The Trust Board should hold oversight of strategic risks and maintain a risk register – monitoring is delegated to Risk, Audit and Strategy Committee.*

The Trust Board is responsible for setting governance policies and has delegated this to the central team for BKAT wide policies and individual schools for those that can be specific to a setting, **see policy review schedule**. *The Trust Board or relevant committee will ratify all statutory required Trust policies.*

The Trust Board are responsible for ensuring safeguarding practices are in place and a designated safeguarding lead is appointed. *The appointment of DSLs for the Trust has been delegated to the CEO and to the headteachers and LGBs for individual schools.*

The Trust Board is responsible for appointing a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and previously looked after children on the school roll – *this has been delegated to headteachers and LGBs.*

The Trust Board have delegated further oversight to four committees, Education Standards and Strategy (ESS), Finance, People and Culture (P and C) and Risk, Audit, Health and Safety and Premises (RAHSP) for which there are terms of reference. Through this oversight the Trust Board may deem intervention necessary.

Intervention

If intervention is required, the Trust will adapt strategies to a school's context as outlined in the School Improvement Strategy. The Trust will understand where each school is on its improvement journey and will pinpoint precisely the issues that need to be addressed if it is to make progress – whether these relate to a school's culture and expectations of pupils, leadership, governance, attendance, behaviour, teaching and learning, assessment or variability in performance. MAT executive leaders will then be deployed to ensure that resources are mobilised to tackle these weaknesses. This is more than being adept at managing a deficit model of school improvement. It is about adapting interventions to maintain momentum as a school improves and refreshing or renewing strategies as the school develops.

The Trust recognises the importance for LGBs to share their views and local knowledge of the school and its community however this must never obstruct any support or intervention from the Trust. LGBs provide an important role is working with the Trust to tackle any issues and move the school forward.

As part of any intervention or if there are concerns regarding the Local Governing Body, the LGB can be reviewed by the Trust Board and after reasonable consideration a decision made whether:

- The delegation of governance is reduced or removed.
- The LGB is supported or replaced.
- A governor's term of office is terminated.

Situations that may cause concern include but are not limited to governors who:

- Consistently disrespect the views of fellow governors on the LGB, the Headteacher, Trustees or Trust employees.
- Use social media in a way that could damage the school's/Trust's reputation.
- Do not understand or refuse to stick to the remit of their role.
- Breach the code of conduct.
- By their actions are significantly detrimental to the effective operation of the LGB or interfere with the operation of the school or Trust.

Committee Terms of Reference

Education Standards and Strategy Committee

The Trust Board has resolved to establish an Education Standards and Strategy (ESS) Committee to advise the Trust Board on matters relating to the Trust's curriculum, quality and standards.

The committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The committee's terms of reference are adopted by the Trust Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Trust Board.

Authority

The committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the Trust Board. It is authorised to request any information it requires from any employee of the Trust and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the committee. The committee is authorised to obtain any outside legal or independent professional advice it considers necessary.

Administration

The Education Standards and Strategy (ESS) Committee will meet 6 times per academic year. The committee's chair or any two committee members may call a meeting.

The ESS Committee will consist of a minimum of three Trustees of the Trust Board. Members of the committee are appointed by the committee and reviewed annually by the Trust Board. The chair of the Trust Board may be an ex officio member of the committee. Additionally, up to two external co-opted members with particular expertise may be appointed to the committee by the Trust Board. Other Trust Board members shall also have right of attendance and may fully participate in meetings, but cannot vote.

The CEO will be an ex officio member of the ESS Committee (and can count towards the minimum of 3 Trustees). Other employees of the Trust may be invited to attend meetings but will have no voting rights.

The chair and vice chair of the ESS Committee will be appointed by and from the ESS committee annually. The CEO or headteacher of a school may not act as chair of the committee. Any other employees of the Trust may also not act as chair, other than in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Board.

If the chair and vice chair are absent from a meeting the committee shall choose another committee member to act as chair for that meeting.

The ESS Committee will be quorate if at least three members (or at least one third if greater) of those members eligible to vote are present.

In addition, at least 50% of those members present are required to be Trustees [in the event of there being co-optees on the committee] and no more than 50% may be employees of the Trust. Decisions to be made at meetings of the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting. Where there is an equal division of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional.

Agendas will be agreed in advance by the chair of the ESS committee (based on, but not limited to, a pre-agreed annual schedule of activity) and papers will be circulated to committee members and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of meetings will be taken and submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Trust Board once approved in draft by the chair of the committee. The ESS committee will self-assess its performance against these terms of reference on an annual basis and will also review the terms of reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Trust Board for approval.

The members of the committee shall hold office from the date of their appointment until their resignation or their omission from membership of the committee on subsequent consideration by the Trust Board (whichever shall happen first).

The Specific duties of the ESS committee will be to monitor, evaluate and advise the Trust Board (via committee minutes and through a Trust Board meeting agenda item) on the following:

Curriculum matters

- Curriculum priorities which apply to all schools within BKAT.
- Curriculum enrichment throughout the Trust.
- Other curriculum issues such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning, e-safety, British Values and Christian Distinctiveness.
- Curriculum and quality of education for all the Trust's academies including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Pupil Achievement

- Pupil achievement and standards throughout the Trust, including specific groups: those with special educational needs and disability (SEND), disadvantaged, looked after children and pupils with English as an additional language.
- Behaviour and attitudes to learning and personal development of pupils including taking account of promoting wellbeing and good mental health.
- How collaboration between academies in the Trust and more widely is raising pupil achievement and wider outcomes.
- Current and emerging patterns, trends and risks relating to attendance for all academies in the Trust.

Wider Outcomes

- Current and emerging Admissions data and the impact that falling roll will have on a school.
- The Trust wide approach to Safeguarding arrangements monitored through the Behaviour and Safeguarding Board. The Trust Safeguarding Statement is agreed
- The Trust wide approach to community engagement.
- Significant changes in performance, emerging trends and risks in relation to the future performance of each school.
- Deployment of resources and effectiveness of the Strategic Education Board.
- Findings from Ofsted/SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)
- Reports from Quality Assurance Review visits ensuring that they are supportive but appropriately challenging.
- Pupil, parents and staff voices.
- Effectiveness of Governance at Local Governing Body level.
- Statutory policies that relate to the ESS committee as per the **policy review schedule**.

Finance Committee

The Trust Board has resolved to establish a Finance Committee to advise the Trust Board on matters relating to the budget and overall financial health of the Trust.

The committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The committee's terms of reference are adopted by the Trust Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Trust Board.

Authority

The Finance Committee is an advisory body with no executive powers. However, it is authorised by the Trust Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff, who are requested to co-operate with the committee in the conduct of its inquiries.

The Finance Committee is authorised to obtain independent professional advice if it considers this necessary.

Administration

The committee shall meet no less than 4 times a year. The committee's chair or any two committee members may call a meeting.

The Finance Committee will consist of a minimum of three Trustees of the Trust Board. Members of the committee are appointed by the committee and reviewed annually by the Trust Board. The chair of Trustees may be an ex-officio committee member. The CEO will be an ex-officio member of the committee.

Additionally, up to two external co-opted members with particular expertise may be appointed to the committee by the Trust Board. Other Trustees shall also have right of attendance and may participate in meetings but cannot vote.

The Director of Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer will normally attend meetings of the Committee.

Other employees of the Trust's may be invited to attend meetings but will have no voting rights.

The external auditor may request a meeting if he or she considers one necessary.

The chair and vice chair of the Finance Committee will be appointed annually by the committee. The CEO or headteacher of an academy may not act as chair or vice chair of the committee. Any other employees of the Trust may also not act as Chair, other than in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Trust Board.

If the chair and vice chair is absent from a meeting the committee shall choose another committee member (who is not a member of staff) to act as chair for that meeting.

The Finance Committee will be quorate if at least three members (or at least one third if greater) of those members eligible to vote are present.

In addition, at least 50% of those members present are required to be Board members [in the event of there being co-optees on the committee] and no more than 50% may be employees of the Trust. Decisions to be made at meetings of the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of committee members present and voting. Where there is an equal division of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional.

Agendas will be agreed in advance by the chair of the Finance Committee (based on, but not limited to, a pre-agreed annual schedule of activity) and papers will be circulated to committee members and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of meetings will be taken and submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Trust Board once approved in draft by the chair of the committee. The Finance Committee will self-assess its performance against these terms of reference on an annual basis and will also review the terms of reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Trust Board for approval.

The members of the committee shall hold office from the date of their appointment until their resignation or their omission from membership of the committee on subsequent consideration by the Board (whichever shall happen first).

The specific duties of the Finance Committee shall be to:

- Take a longer-term view of the Trust's financial plans consistent with the requirement to approve and submit three-year budget forecasts using an integrated approach to curriculum and financial planning.
- Review the annual budget in detail and to make recommendations to the Trust Board.
- Review and approve any adjustments to the Trust's approved budget .
- Ensure that financial plans are prepared and monitored, satisfying itself that the Trust remains a going concern and financially sustainable.
- Ensure that the Trust's financial procedures are complied with.
- Review and act upon any issues identified by benchmarking against similar Trusts, internal or external scrutiny.
- Ensure that the Trust follows basic procurement rules and achieves best value for money when acquiring goods and services.
- Monitor how school premiums are spent (Sport Premium, Service Premium and Pupil Premium).
- Review pupil number estimates (that underpin revenue projections) termly
- Comply with statutory requirements to publish Trust staff rates of pay and benefits.
- Ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for staff pay increments
- Ensure the Trust Board receive management accounts at least six times a year
- Ensure Chair of Finance Committee (as well as the Chair of Trustees) receive the management accounts each month.
- Approve a written scheme of delegation of financial powers.
- Review new and existing policies relating to financial management of the Trust (as per the **Policy Review Schedule**).
- To explain the Trust's policy for holding reserves in its annual report.
- To ensure Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) compliance.
- Undertake detailed scrutiny and recommend approval of the school resource management self-assessment checklist annually
- Report back to each meeting of the Trust Board, alerting them to potential problems and significant variations to the approved budget at the earliest opportunity

Financial delegation regards spending

Delegated Duty	Value	Delegated Authority	Comments
Ordering goods and services	Up to £5000	Headteacher Chief Financial Officer	Evidence of best value required LGB to monitor
	Up to £25,000	Director of Finance and Operations	Over £5,000 three quotes required LGB to advise on preferred quote
	Up to £50,000	Chief Executive Officer	Over £40,000 tendering process LGB to advise on preferred quote
	Over £50,000	Trust Board	Delegated to Finance Committee LGB to advise on preferred quote
Business Charge Cards limits	Up to £2000	Chief Executive Officer Director of Finance and Operations Chief Financial Officer Estates Manager School Business Manager	
	Over £2000	Trust Board	Delegated to Finance Committee
Virement Limits	Up to £5000	Chief Executive Officer	
	Over £5000	Trust Board	Delegated to Finance Committee
Capital Asset Disposal	Up to £1000	CEO	
	Over £1000	Trust Board	
Bad Debt write off	Up to £1000	CEO	
	Over £1000	Trust Board	
	Over £45000	Education and Skills Funding Agency	

People and Culture Committee

The Trust Board has resolved to establish a People and Culture Committee to advise the Trust Board on matters relating to staffing, employment, recruitment and culture.

The committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The committee's terms of reference are adopted by the Trust Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Trust Board.

Authority

The committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the Trust Board. It is authorised to request any information it requires from any employee of the Trust and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the committee. The committee is authorised to obtain any outside legal or independent professional advice it considers necessary.

Administration

The People and Culture Committee will meet at least 3 times per academic year. The committee's chair or any two committee members may call a meeting.

The People and Culture Committee will consist of a minimum of three Trustees of the Trust Board. Members of the committee are appointed by the committee and reviewed annually by the Trust Board. The chair of the Trust Board may be an ex officio member of the committee. Additionally, up to two external co-opted members with particular expertise may be appointed to the committee by the Trust Board. Other Trust Board members shall also have right of attendance and may fully participate in meetings, but cannot vote.

The CEO will be an ex officio member of the People and Culture Committee (and can count towards the minimum of 3 Trustees). Other employees of the Trust may be invited to attend meetings but will have no voting rights.

The chair and vice chair of the People and Culture Committee will be appointed by and from the committee annually. The CEO or headteacher of a school may not act as chair of the committee. Any other employees of the Trust may also not act as chair, other than in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Board.

If the chair and vice chair are absent from a meeting the committee shall choose another committee member to act as chair for that meeting.

The People and Culture Committee will be quorate if at least three members (or at least one third if greater) of those members eligible to vote are present.

In addition, at least 50% of those members present are required to be Trustees [in the event of there being co-optees on the committee]. Decisions to be made at meetings of the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting. Where there is an equal division of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional.

Agendas will be agreed in advance by the chair of the People and Culture Committee (based on, but not limited to, a pre-agreed annual schedule of activity) and papers will be circulated to committee members and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of meetings will be taken and submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Trust Board once approved in draft by the chair of the committee. The People and Culture committee will self-

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assess its performance against these terms of reference on an annual basis and will also review the terms of reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Trust Board for approval.

The members of the committee shall hold office from the date of their appointment until their resignation or their omission from membership of the committee on subsequent consideration by the Trust Board (whichever shall happen first).

The Specific duties of the People and Culture Committee will be to:

- Follow employment law, having due regard to advice given by the Head of HR.
- Ratify and oversee the Trust pay strategy.
- Ratify all HR policies and guidance. (As per the policy review schedule).
- Consider the health and safety and wellbeing of staff including the CEO through surveys, sickness reports, and opportunities available to staff through BKAT to promote good mental and physical health.
- Manage the CEO appraisal with external advice.
- Review the pay award recommendation for the CEO as advised by the Performance Management Trustees.
- Review the pay award recommendation for all BKAT Headteachers as advised by the CEO.
- Ensure an interim review of the CEO's performance takes place and is reported back to the committee.
- Review and monitor CPD opportunities for all BKAT staff.
- Review the staffing structure of the Trust, ensuring consideration is given to succession planning.
- Review the Gender Equality Pay report annually.
- Agree the staff appeal panels in line with Disciplinary, Grievance and Capability Policies.
- Agree the redundancy appeal panel in line with Redundancy, Re-organisation and Re-Deployment Policy.
- Ensure safer recruitment policy is implemented including DBS checks and section 128 checks.
- Ensure compliance with equality legislation.
- Review the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer as to BKAT Headteachers.
- Monitor staff absence and turnover.
- Review the Trust's code of conduct for members, Trustees and governors, and code of conduct for staff.
- Review the needs of the Trust Board and action the recruitment of potential new Trustees, with due regard to succession planning.

The People and Culture Committee must ensure personnel management procedures have been identified, formally approved and documented to cover as a minimum:

- recruitment (including references and police checks),
- performance appraisal and review,
- equal opportunities,
- disciplinary (including absence policies),
- grievance,
- staff expenses,
- Induction and continuous professional development

The People and Culture Committee must consider any other matters where requested to do so by the Trust Board and report at least once a year to the Trust Board on the discharge of the above duties.

The Trust Board should also ensure that procedures are in place to ensure that employees of the Trust are paid for work done in accordance with their contracts of employment with the Trust.

In addition, the Trust Board must ensure the Trust has adequate insurance cover to support its activities as an employer, such as employers' liability insurance, fidelity insurance, Trustee indemnity and public liability insurance.

Risk, Audit, Health and Safety and Premises Committee (RAHSP)

The Trust Board has resolved to establish a Risk, Audit Health and Safety and Premises Committee in accordance with the provisions of The Academy Trust Handbook to advise the Trust Board on matters relating to the Trust's audit arrangements and systems of internal control.

This committee will be subject to the provisions of the Standing Orders of the Trust and its committees (to which specific reference should be made) and shall operate in accordance with any requirements of the Education Funding and Skills Agency and any other national funding bodies.

It is responsible to the Trust Board.

Authority

The committee is authorised by the Trust Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference and to seek any information it requires from the internal audit service, the financial statements auditor, Trustees, committees and Trust employees, plus relevant information from subcontractors and other third parties and obtain external professional advice.

NB. The Board must not add to these terms of reference responsibilities that require the committee to adopt an executive role, or its members to offer professional advice to the Trust Board. The committee should seek formal professional opinions from the internal audit service, financial statements auditor or other professional advisers to the Trust Board. Advice should only be given in committee members' capacity as Trustees and co-optees and only within their terms of reference.

Administration

The committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 Trustees and at least one of whom shall have the relevant skills and expertise. The chair of the Trust Board may be an ex officio member of the committee. The Trust Board may co-opt persons to the committee who are not Trustees but have relevant skills and experience.

Employees of the Trust should not be members of the committee but the accounting officer and chief financial officer should attend to provide information and participate in discussions.

The RAHSP Committee will be quorate if at least three members (or at least one third if greater) of those members eligible to vote are present. Other Trust Board members shall also have right of attendance and may fully participate in meetings, but cannot vote.

In addition, at least 50% of those members present are required to be Trustees [in the event of there being co-optees on the committee]. Decisions to be made at meetings of the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting. Where there is an equal division of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional.

The chair and vice chair of the RAHSP Committee will be appointed by the committee and reviewed by the Trust Board annually. Neither the chair of Trustees or the chair of finance should be chair of the RAHSP committee. If the chair and vice chair is absent from a meeting, the committee members shall choose one of their number to act as chair for that meeting.

The committee shall meet at least four times a year. The chair or any two committee members may call a meeting.

The meetings shall be timely with the work of the Trust's internal audit service and the financial statements auditor.

Agendas will be agreed in advance by the chair of the RAHSP Committee (based on, but not limited to, a pre-agreed annual schedule of activity) and papers will be circulated to committee members and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of meetings will be taken and submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Trust Board once approved in draft by the chair of the committee. The RAHSP committee will self-assess its performance against these terms of reference on an annual basis and will also review the terms of reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Trust Board for approval.

The members of the committee shall hold office from the date of their appointment until their resignation or their omission from membership of the committee on subsequent consideration by the Trust Board (whichever shall happen first).

The duties of the Risk and Audit aspect of the Committee are detailed in the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

The committee **must**:

- Agree a programme of work annually to deliver internal scrutiny that provides coverage across the year.
- Review the ratings and responses to the risk register to inform the programme of work , ensuring checks are modified as appropriate each year.
- Agree who will perform the work.
- Consider reports at each meeting from those carrying out the programme of work.
- Consider progress in addressing recommendations.
- Consider outputs from other assurance activities by third parties including ESFA financial management and governance reviews, funding audits and investigations.
- Have access to the external auditor as well as those carrying out internal scrutiny, and consider their quality.

The committee will also:

- Assess whether procedures are designed effectively and efficiently, and check whether agreed procedures have been followed
- Seek assurance that the risks identified are those which may occur, for example, operational risk, financial risk, compliance risk, regulatory and legal risk, major accident
- Review the ratings and responses on the risk register to inform contingency and business continuity planning and the programme of work, ensuring risks and control measures are adequately identified and modified as appropriate
- Provide reports for each full Trust Board meeting, highlighting emerging risks or significant anomalies at the earliest opportunity
- To review the Trust's insurance cover in compliance with its legal obligations

The committee's oversight must extend to the financial and non -financial controls and risks at all schools in BKAT.

Oversight must ensure information submitted to the DfE and ESFA that affects funding including pupil number returns and funding claims (for both revenue and capital grants) completed by the Trust and by all schools in BKAT, is accurate and in compliance with funding criteria.

Remit of the committee in relation to internal scrutiny.

The committee **must**:

- Direct the Trust's programme of internal scrutiny.
- Ensure that the risks are being addressed appropriately through internal scrutiny.
- Report to the Board on the adequacy of the Trust's control framework, including financial and non-financial controls and management of risks.

Remit of the committee in relation to external audit.

The committee **must**:

- Review the external auditors plan each year.
- Review the annual report and accounts.
- Review the auditor's findings and actions taken by the Trust's managers in response to those findings.
- Assess the effectiveness and resources of the external auditor to provide a basis for decisions by the Trust's members about the auditor's re-appointment or dismissal or retendering.
- Produce an annual report of the committee's conclusions to advise the Trust Board and members, including recommendation on the re-appointment or dismissal or retendering of the external auditor and their remuneration.

The duties of the committee in relation to Health and Safety and Premises

- Review and monitor the Health and Safety policy statement in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of pupils, employees and visitors to the Trust.
- Maintains oversight of asbestos management in schools.
- Review any report from the Chief Operating Officer in to the operation of the Trust buildings and grounds.
- Ratify a health & safety policy that is embedded across all schools as an integral part of the Trust's culture and standards and clearly sets out roles and responsibilities within its processes.
- Receive regular reports from the Trust team to enable review and scrutiny of health & safety issues using a Trust wide compliance matrix capturing key compliance elements
- Update the Trustees at each Trust Board meeting on health and safety compliance
- Ensure compliance with health and safety legislation, including food safety, supporting pupils with additional health needs, first aid and fire safety.

Trust Growth Working Party

The Trust Board has resolved to establish a Trust Growth Working Party to advise the Trust Board on matters relating to schools joining the Trust.

The Working Party is responsible to the Trust Board.

The Working Party terms of reference are adopted by the Trust Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Trust Board.

Authority

The working party is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the Trust Board. It is authorised to request any information it requires from any employee of the Trust and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the working party. The working party is authorised to obtain any outside legal or independent professional advice it considers necessary. The working party cannot make any final decisions on which schools do or do not join the Trust but are expected to make recommendations to the Trust Board.

Administration

The Trust Growth Working Party will meet as and when required. The working party chair or any two working party members may call a meeting.

The working party will consist of the Chair of Trustees, the Committee Chairs, CEO and DCEO

Other employees of the Trust may be invited to attend meetings.

The chair and vice chair of the working party will be appointed by and from the working party annually. The CEO or headteacher of a school may not act as chair of the working party. Any other employees of the Trust may also not act as chair, other than in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Board.

If the chair and vice chair are absent from a meeting the working party shall choose another committee member to act as chair for that meeting.

The working party will be quorate if at least three members (or at least one third if greater) of those members eligible to vote are present.

In addition, at least 50% of those members present are required to be Trustees [in the event of there being co-optees on the committee]. Decisions to be made at meetings of the working party shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting. Where there is an equal division of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Where possible decisions should be made at a meeting however there is provision for decisions to be made in writing known as written resolutions. If required these will be administered by the governance professional

Agendas will be agreed in advance by the chair and papers will be circulated to the working party and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of meetings will be taken and submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Trust Board once approved in draft by the chair of the working party. The working party will self-assess its performance against these terms of reference on an annual basis and will also review the terms of reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Trust Board for approval.

The members of the working shall hold office from the date of their appointment until their resignation, they are no longer a committee chair, or their omission from membership of the working party on subsequent consideration by the Trust Board (whichever shall happen first).

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The specific duties of the Trust Growth Working Party are:

- to oversee the growth proposals for Trust expansion in line with BKAT's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to scrutinise the Schools Joining Checklist and decide whether or not to progress to the Advisory Board
- to scrutinise the due diligence of each school looking to join BKAT and recommend to the Trust Board whether or not to approve the school joining,
- to review the current Growth Plan, taking account of sustainability, budget, staffing/capacity etc;
- to ensure robust/strong governance procedures are in place to provide effective support and challenge to the central team;
- to consider the local strategic fit with other MATs in the area

Decision making:

- The working party has the delegated authority to make the decision regarding a school going forward to the Advisory Board. (After step 1 of the due diligence process has taken place).
- The Trust Board, on advice from the TGWP will make the decision to approve a school joining BKAT (After step 2 of the due diligence process has taken place).

Local Governing Body

The Trust Board has resolved to establish Local Governing Bodies (LGB) in accordance with the provisions in the Articles of Association. Local Governing Bodies are a committee of the Trust Board and their duties are delegated by the Trust Board. The Trust Board can review the membership of an LGB and their delegation of duties at any time. See page 13 for further information.

Authority

The is authorised by the Trust Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff, who are requested to co-operate with the LGB in the conduct of its inquiries.

The constitution of a Local Governing Body of the Blue Kite Academy Trust shall be:

- At least 2 elected parent governors
- Up to 2 elected staff governors (optional)
- A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 co-opted governors
- The headteacher
- For VC schools 25% Foundation Governors
- For VA schools majority of Foundation Governors

The maximum number of governors on an LGB will be 15 governors.

The term of office for all governors (including the headteacher) will be four years.

Staff and parents can be co-opted on to an LGB (as well as being elected) but staff must not make up more than 1/3 of the membership.

Committee Members

The LGB may invite any person who is not a governor to an LGB meeting or committee of the LGB for the skills that they can offer. They should not be given voting rights at LGB but can be given voting rights at committee level providing governors are in the majority when any vote takes place.

Link Governors

The LGB will appoint a link governor for Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Church schools will appoint a link for Christian Distinctiveness. Other link governors may be appointed as agreed by the LGB.

LGB Committees

It is not expected that LGBs of the Blue Kite Academy Trust will have committees but it is for the LGB to decide if they wish to form them. If they do then there needs to be standing orders based on the delegated duties to LGBs. A chair and vice chair must be elected and the committees must be minuted (by the governance professional to the LGB where possible).

Chair and Vice Chair

The LGB will elect a chair and vice chair from their number following the BKAT procedure, for a term of one or two years maximum. The election will take place at the final meeting of the academic year. If a chair or vice chair resigns mid-term then the new appointee will serve until the last meeting of that academic year in order to re-set the cycle.

If a chair were to be elected for a 6th year, during that year the LGB would review the chair's position and consider if steps are required for succession planning as suggested good practice is that a chair does not serve for more than 6 years.

Any employees of the Trust may not act as chair or vice chair

If the chair and vice chair is absent from a meeting the LGB shall choose another (non-staff) governor to act as chair for that meeting.

Chair's Action – must only be undertaken by the **Trust Board** chair

This is where the chair (or vice chair when the chair is unable to do so by reasons of vacancy in the office or otherwise) **of the Trust Board** is able to make a decision where a delay would be likely to be seriously detrimental to the Blue Kite Academy Trust, a pupil or their parent/carer or member of staff. However, it is only to be used if an immediate response is required – if there is a possibility that an extra-ordinary LGB or Trust Board meeting could be arranged in time to make the decision then this should always be the first option. If such an issue comes to the attention of the LGB chair then they need to make contact with the CEO or Head of Governance immediately. This is very rarely used and only in extreme circumstances.

The Governance Professional

A governance professional for the LGB will be appointed by the school but with support from the Central Team. The governance professional will have a job description but in summary will provide

- guidance to ensure the Board works in compliance with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework, and understands the potential consequences of non-compliance
- advice on procedural matters relating to operation of the Local Governing Body
- administrative and organisational support

Meetings

There will be a minimum of six meetings of the LGB each academic year. Meetings of the LGB shall be convened and conducted as described in the LGB Handbook.

Minutes

All meetings of the LGB will be minuted by the governance professional. If the governance professional is unexpectedly absent from the meeting then for a one-off occasion a governor may take the minutes.

Minutes will be checked by the chair of the meeting before being distributed to governors via GovernorHub within 10 days of the meeting held. Minutes can be signed electronically via GovernorHub.

Distribution of confidential minutes will be agreed by the chair of the LGB.

Quorum

LGB meetings can only take place if they are quorate. The quorum for a meeting will be three governors or one third of the LGB whichever is larger. Unless there is going to be a vote to remove a governor or the chair of the LGB and then the quorum is two thirds. Non-staff governors must outnumber governors who are members of staff by at least one.

Withdrawal from meetings

Governors will withdraw from meetings when appropriate and dependent on their declaration of business interests.

A governor may be asked to leave a meeting if there is a conflict of interest or pecuniary interest declared at the start of the meeting. These may include the following situations (but not exclusive):

- Teachers need not withdraw because of a pecuniary interest which is no greater than that of the other teachers at the school.
- Other members of staff need not withdraw unless they have a personal interest which is greater than that of other members of staff who are not teachers.
- Any employee of the school other than the Headteacher must withdraw from a meeting which considers the pay or appraisal of other employees of the school.
- The Headteacher must withdraw from any meeting which considers his or her own pay or performance appraisal.
- The person acting as clerk may continue to act as such unless his or her own pay or disciplinary action against him/her is under consideration.
- A member of the school staff cannot be present at a meeting when the appointment of their successor is considered, nor vote on their appointment.
- If there is a disagreement about whether a person is required to withdraw, it is for the other members of the LGB or committee to make the decision.

Voting

Every governor has one vote and every question to be decided at a meeting of the governors shall be determined by a majority vote when there is an equal division the chair of the meeting will have the casting vote. A vote cannot take place outside of an LGB meeting.

Delegated duties

The governors focus on three core functions:

1. ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance

The Trust Board has delegated the following functions to LGBs. However, where intervention in a school and/or the LGB is required certain functions may be removed.

The main functions of the Local Governing Body include:

SEND and Inclusion

Governors must ensure that the needs are being met and the life chances are being improved of vulnerable children. This is achieved by providing pupils with equality of opportunity, the right level of support through different teaching strategies and extra resources to access the curriculum and by identifying disadvantage within the communities served and striving to improve outcomes for these children

Receive:

- SEND policy
- Annual SEND report to parents
- Pupil premium strategy and impact measures
- Progress and attainment data by group
- End of year Trust data dashboard with comparative data to Trust outcomes
- SEND in a nutshell – termly updates
- Accessibility plan and policy

Participate:

- SEND learning walk
- Trust-wide training (as appropriate and in response to Trust, local or national changes)
- SEND Link Governor report (to include participation in SEND annual report to parents, SEND learning walk and 'in a nutshell')

Lead:

- Pupil voice
- Parent voice (annual questionnaire)

Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance

Governors must ensure that children are safe, respected and valued by providing an environment where children can reach their full potential free from harm, abuse and discrimination. This is achieved by governors discharging their safeguarding responsibilities effectively through training, policies, clear lines of communication, ensuring good attendance is a school priority and that the school is supporting children and families where concerns arise.

Receive:

- Information and benchmarked data for behaviour and safeguarding information, including attendance and suspensions/exclusions
- External audits and review outcomes
- Attendance updates per group (Whole School, Pupil Premium, SEND and any identified contextual school attendance)
- Lighthouse referrals
- Looked After Child report (if applicable) for Virtual School
- School development plan safeguarding targets, monitor progress towards actions and impact
- Annual safeguarding map
- Updated CP and Safeguarding policy (ratify school level amendments)
- Updated Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy (ratify)
- Young carers – numbers, support and challenges

Participate:

- Annual safeguarding training
- Read and raise questions about most recent version KCSiE
- Annual safeguarding audit
- Annual section 175 audit
- Safeguarding learning walk (using STC template)
- Filtering and monitoring checks alongside Senior Leadership Team lead

Lead:

- Pupil voice
- Parent voice (annual questionnaire)
- Safeguarding Link Governor Report (to include participation in Sec 175 audit, STC audit, safeguarding learning walk, pupil voice)

Quality of Education

Governors must ensure that children are achieving well and are prepared for the next stage of education. This is achieved by the school being ambitious for the children and committed to providing the highest quality of education for them, through a range of experiences.

Receive:

- School Evaluation (SEF) judgements
- Church School SIAMs Self Evaluation
- Flight Plan Dashboard
- Trust Outcomes Report
- Term 2, 4 and 6 progress and attainment data
- School development plan progress and attainment, curriculum and subject targets, monitor progress towards actions and impact
- Sport Premium report including outcomes and following year's plan
- Staff and school CPD information
- Spring Partnership reviews
- Quality assurance reviews (QAR)
- Music Development Plan

Participate:

- Raise questions for discussion

Lead:

- Link Governor Reports (as identified by the individual school development plan)
- For Church Schools -Foundation governor collective worship report (ensuring that worship reflects the school's Anglican/Methodist foundation and enables the spiritual flourishing of the those in the school community)
- For Church Schools -Link governor report regarding the Religious Education curriculum offered, ensuring that it meets legal requirements and reflects the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for RE

School Business and Operations

Governors must ensure that the school is well run, well resourced and well staffed. This is achieved by having robust HR and financial procedures in place and effective Health and Safety practice.

Receive:

- 3-year indicative budget plan
- Management Accounts (Termly in-year budget summary and discussion of significant variance)
- Annual building condition survey report
- Annual H&S audit
- Risk Register
- Fire Drill/Lockdown Update/Critical incident – Risk assessment
- Data breaches, complaints (including stage) and Subject Access Requests
- Confirmation that teacher appraisals have been completed
- Confirmation that annual pay statements have been given to teachers
- Staffing Update
- Report on significant incidents/accidents that required further investigation or external medical treatment

Participate:

- Annual cyber-security and data protection training
- Annual LGB self-evaluation
- Governance Professional annual appraisal
- HT appraisal and mid-term review

Lead:

- Site safety walkabout (focus on housekeeping / tidiness)
- Report back progress on the annual H&S audit
- Health and Safety Link Governor Report 2 – 3 times a year

Culture and Community

Governors must ensure that the needs are being met of the children, staff and community that the school serves. This is achieved by schools championing the Trust's vision and values and by agreeing school level vision and values that are communicated to all stakeholders. Schools will celebrate the diverse nature of their communities and be at the heart of their communities. Governors are the link between the Trust and local community.

Receive:

- PTA updates
- School community engagement opportunities report
- Trust vision and values statement
- Annual Trust staff survey outcomes - Trust overview and school specific

Participate:

- Trust stakeholder days

- Trust training opportunities / Chair and Vice-chair of LGBs to attend Trust Vision & Values presentation
- Discussion and review of school vision and values, ensure this is clearly communicated by the school to all stakeholders and demonstrated within the day-to-day running of the school
- Review school Equality, Inclusion and Diversity actions within Trust policy where appropriate
- Complete annual declaration of conflict of interest and governor code of conduct
- Governor visit reports
- Community engagement/school and PTA events updates

Lead:

- Pupil, parent and staff voice
- Ensure school's culture and values are aligned with Trust culture and values
- Disseminate information from Trust Vision & Values presentation to all local governors
- Schools with a religious designation must ensure that the school's Christian distinctiveness encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience offered to children. This being, for the Church of England, that education allows for the development of wisdom, knowledge and skills; promotes dignity and respect; values community and living well together; and pupils having hope and aspiration.

Policies

There are three categories of policy:

1. BKAT policies which are Trust wide and all schools follow – such as staffing and finance. These are reviewed and agreed by the Trust Board however LGBs will need to be aware of them.
2. BKAT policies that schools can add their own appendices to if necessary. The policy will be approved by the Trust Board but any individual school amendments will need to be approved by the LGB.
3. Individual School policies - the school must have a policy review schedule in place and LGBs should regularly review and approve these policies.

There is a BKAT summary of all policies that schools must/should have which can be referred to.

Ofsted Inspections

The expectation is that governors from the LGB will make themselves available along with a Trustee to meet with the Ofsted Inspectors during their visit.

Schools that are not performing well

For those LGBs where the school is not considered to be performing well the Trust Board will intervene and decide on how best to support the LGB and school. If it is considered that the LGB has the capacity to improve and hold the school to account then appropriate support will be given.

However, if a decision is made that the LGB is not capable of moving the school forward then the LGB will be removed and an interim LGB will be put in place by the Trust Board.

Terms of Reference for Panels

Interview Panel for a Headteacher

The interview panel will receive advice and guidance from the Head of HR.

Membership: The CEO (or their representative), a member of trust staff, one governor (usually the Chair of Governors) and one trustee (who are not members of staff) and have been appointed by the CEO or Trust Board.

Other Professionals may be invited to be part of the interview process if appropriate in order to offer support/advice, For Church schools the Diocese of Bristol will be consulted and a Diocesan Adviser will be invited to attend the interview in an advisory capacity.

Quorum: Three of which one must be the CEO (or their representative) and one must be another member of Trust staff and one must be a governor or a trustee.

Refer to Safer Recruitment Guidance for specific duties.

Interview Panel for CEO

The interview panel will receive advice and guidance from the Head of HR.

Membership: External Educational Advisor, Chair of Trustees (or Vice Chair if the Chair is unavailable) and at least one other Trustee. Other professionals (including from the Diocese of Bristol) may be invited to be part of the interview process if appropriate in order to offer support/advice.

Quorum: Three

Refer to Safer Recruitment Guidance for specific duties and the Academy Trust Handbook.

Admissions Panel

Admissions for the Blue Kite Academy Trust are dealt with by the Admissions Team at Swindon Borough Council and any appeal would be through an independent panel.

Complaint Panel

Membership: Two Trustees and an independent panel member

Quorum: Three

The meeting will be minuted by the Head of Governance.

Refer to BKAT Complaint Policy for full details on the remit of the complaint panel.

LGB Staff Grievance Appeal Panel

Membership: Two governors and the CEO (if the Headteacher made the decision)
Three Trustees (if the CEO made the decision)

Quorum: One governor plus the CEO (three preferable)
Two Trustees

If necessary governors from any BKAT school can be invited to form the panel.

The meeting must be minuted. Where possible this will be by the LGB governance professional or Head of Governance.

To consider matters relating to staff grievance in accordance with agreed procedures detailed in the BKAT Grievance policy, and to make such decisions as fall to it to make under those procedures.

Staff Disciplinary Panel

Membership: Three governors (or three Trustees where the member of staff is the CEO)

Quorum: Three

The meeting must be minuted. Where possible this will be by the LGB governance professional or Head of Governance.

To consider matters relating to staff conduct where there is a possibility that the member of staff will be dismissed in accordance with agreed procedures detailed in the BKAT Disciplinary policy, and to make such decisions as fall to it to make under those procedures.

Staff Appeals Panel

Membership: Three Trustees

Quorum: Three

The meeting must be minuted. Where possible this will be by the LGB governance professional or Head of Governance.

To hear appeals against decisions made in relation to staff pay, discipline and dismissal except for probation decisions which can be considered by the CEO (or their representative).

Performance Management Governors/Trustees

Membership: For Headteachers - The CEO and one governor (usually the Chair of Governors)

For CEO - An external adviser and two trustees (usually the Chair of Trustees)

Quorum: 1 governor and the CEO (for Headteachers)
2 Trustees plus an external adviser (for CEO)

Refer to the BKAT Performance Management policy for further details on conducting performance management.

Pupil Discipline Panel

Membership: Three governors made up of governors from any school within BKAT, or Trustees
It is advised that the panel does not consist of governors or Trustees who are also members of staff within BKAT.

Quorum: Two

- A representative from the Local Authority can be invited.
- The committee's role is to review, as the need arises, the headteacher's exclusion decisions.
- Ensure reference to the BKAT Exclusion policy.

The Local Governing Body assisted by the Head of Governance should establish a pupil discipline panel of three members. The headteacher may not be a member. No governor or Trustee should serve on the panel if they have a connection with the pupil or the incident which could affect their ability to act impartially.

The panel should be clerked by the LGB governance professional or Head of Governance and the Trustees/governors should be trained in the exclusion process.

The Pupil Discipline Panel will:

- Consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 15 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion if, the exclusion is permanent, it is a suspension which would bring the pupil's total number of school days of exclusion to more than 15 in a term or it would result in a pupil missing a public examination or national curriculum test.
- Consider representations from the LA or from parents whose child has been excluded for any period;
- Ensure the school adheres to the legal procedures and guidance on use of exclusions and suspensions;
- Decide whether to direct re-instatement of any pupil excluded;
- Review the use of exclusions and suspension within the school.

In the case of suspensions where a pupil would be suspended for more than five but less than 16 school days in the term, if the parents make representations, the Pupil Discipline Panel must consider within 50 school days of receiving the notice of suspension whether the suspended pupil should be reinstated. There is no deadline for this meeting to be arranged, however, if this does occur then it should happen within a reasonable amount of time. In the absence of any representations from the parents, the Pupil Discipline Panel can consider reinstatement on their own.

Appeals by parents against the decision of the Pupil Discipline Panel are dealt with by an independent panel this will be arranged through the Local Authority.

Governors/Trustees serving on the Pupil Discipline Panel should take great care to ensure that they follow legal procedures since their decisions are open to scrutiny by an independent panel. Refer to the statutory guidance for further information: *Suspension and Permanent Exclusions from*

maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement September 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Appendix A

The Seven Principles of Public Life

(Originally published by the Nolan Committee: The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations).

Selflessness - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful

Leadership – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Date Agreed by Trust Board:	Amendments
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Behaviour, attitudes to learning and personal development to the terms of reference for ESS committee. • Amended clerk to governance professional • Amended quorum for LGB meetings to state that non staff governors must outnumber staff governors by at least 1 • Amended Academies Financial Handbook to Academy Trust Handbook
December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended committee structure for Trust Board, staffing and H and S and Premises removed from FPR committee – now just Finance Committee, new committee called People and Culture and H and S and Premises included in Risk and Audit now RAHSP committee. • Amended committee numbers and quorum for RAHSP committee to align with good practice guidance from the DfE regarding risk and audit. • Amended pictorial representation of governance structure. • Added further detail regarding voting via a written resolution for Trustees. • Added further detail on minutes for Trust Board and LGB to confirm that they can be signed via GovernorHub. • Financial Delegation Regards Spending – ordering goods and services, process now in place for amounts over £40k to go to tender increased from £30k due to rate of inflation.
July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended pictorial representation of governance structure to remove number of LGBs. • Standardised the committee ToR so that the Chair can be an ex-officio member of any committee. • Updated ToR for Trust Board Committees to better reflect responsibilities. • Removed - <i>To agree admissions criteria each year. Any changes to be referred to the Trust Board. Consultation is required at least every 7 years</i> - from LGB responsibilities as there is now just one Trust Admissions policy so this will go to the Trust Board. • Added - <i>To review the BKAT Behaviour and Safeguarding Report</i> - to LGB responsibilities under Safeguarding. • Amended 'fixed term exclusion' to 'suspension' under Pupil Discipline Committee. • Added appraisal of governance professional to LGB duties under Governance.
Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Trustee recruitment and review Headteacher pay awards to P and C ToR • Included more detailed information on intervention and the powers of the Trust Board in relation to LGBs • Added policy review to ToR for LGB • Removed approving the annual key stage targets and re-worded the point about the curriculum for clarity, added review School Risk Assessment in the LGB ToR • Added Having due regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education to LGB Safeguarding ToR • Interview panels for Headteacher and CEO added • Amendments made to job titles in Finance ToR
July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended Board Purpose to reflect the Academy Trust Handbook and Academy Trust Governance Guide.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed Virements from Finance TORs.
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended Members to include DCM appointed and Representative • Amended Trustee constitution to include DCM approved • Reference to church schools and foundation governors, SIAMS and Christian Distinctiveness • Updated terms of reference for LGBs • Amended language around Ofsted gradings • Removed Pay Panel • Included consult with Diocese of Church School Headteacher appointments and CEO appointment • Amended membership of Headteacher interview panel. • Minor amendments to values.