

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Local Governing Body (LGB) Chairs' Group Terms of Reference

The Chairs' Group allows for deep and purposeful collaboration between the layers of Ebor Governance as one entity. This group is advisory in nature.

Membership

All Chairs of Ebor Academy Trust's LGBs will be invited to attend Chairs' Group meetings. If Chairs are unable to attend, Vice Chairs are invited to attend in their place.

Quorum

The meeting will be considered quorate if one trustee and four Chairs/Vice Chairs are present.

Decisions Outside of Meetings

This committee does not have any delegated powers. However, opinions of the committee will be sought on local governance issues. Where the board (exceptionally) requires the group to make a decision, trustees are not entitled to vote. Decisions may, at times, be required outside of meetings. In such circumstances Chairs/V.Chairs can vote via e-mail through the Governance Professional/Clerk. The Governance Professional will keep a record of all email responses to the decision. At the next meeting the decision will be formally ratified.

Members of the Chairs' Group will:

- Ensure effective communication exists across and within the Trust so that LGBs are fully briefed on Trust developments. In addition, the group enables LGBs to bring to the attention of trustees issues for discussion and resolution.
- Offer support, constructive advice, and be a sounding board for Trust proposals relating to governance arrangements across the Trust. Similarly, LGBs may bring such proposals to the Trust for discussion.
- Establish consistent working practices across the Trust and its LGBs.
- Work with the Trust and in support of each other in ensuring that each LGB is able to fulfil its obligations as set out in our Scheme of Delegation (SoD), namely:
 - Establishing the vision and ethos for the relevant academy ensuring that it fits within and promotes the vision and ethos of the Trust
 - Ensuring good governance of the Academy
 - Safeguarding and promoting the values of the Academy
 - Supporting the Headteachers of the Academies and being a critical friend

- o Ensuring a culture of safeguarding and welfare is embedded throughout each academy
- o Advising trustees about local issues they need to consider that may affect the Trust
- Advise the Trust on training and development needs.
- Act in the best interests of the Trust and its schools at all times and will adhere to the Seven Nolan Principles of Public life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership (by example).
- Engage in governance training and development, sharing of good practice, advice and peer networking.

Meeting Schedule

The Chairs' Group will meet termly. The Chair of the Board may convene additional meetings, as they deem necessary.

Reporting

A written/verbal update on the Chairs' Group work will be presented to the board after each meeting.