

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Local Governing Body (LGB) Chairs' Group Terms of Reference (V2 Sept 2025)

1. Introduction

The Chairs' Group allows for deep and purposeful collaboration between the layers of Ebor Governance as one entity. This group is advisory in nature with no delegated powers.

2. Committee 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.

3. Authority

The Committee is a committee of the Board and is authorised to undertake any activity within its terms of reference. The Committee will meet as often as is necessary to fulfil its responsibilities.

The Chairs' Group has no executive powers or operational responsibilities/duties other than those set out in this TOR or specifically delegated to it by the board.

4. Meetings

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

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

5. 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.

6. 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 and, where relevant, fits with and supports Church School status
 - 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
 - Ensuring a culture of safeguarding and welfare is embedded throughout each academy
 - 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.

7. Reporting

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

8. Review of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Committee and Committee effectiveness will be reviewed annually by the Board.