

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standards Scrutiny Committee (v4 Sept 2025)

1. Introduction

The Standards (the Committee) is established as a committee of the Trustee Board. Its main purpose is to scrutinise learning, personal development, wellbeing outcomes for pupils and monitor the impact of school improvement strategies across the Trust, monitoring and evaluating the impact of strategies, in individual academies and across the Trust, for ensuring the highest possible quality of education.

2. Committee Membership

The Membership and Chair of the Committee will be confirmed each year by the board.

The committee may obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and secure the attendance of non-members with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary. Such a person shall not be entitled to vote.

3. Authority

The Committee has no executive powers other than those set out in these terms of reference.

The Standards Scrutiny Committee is a Committee of the Board and is authorised to undertake any activity within its terms of reference or specially delegated to it by the Board

4. Meetings

The committee shall meet at least four times each year and as required.

Meetings will be quorate if 2 members are present.

The meetings may be held in person or by teleconference or video conference and individual members may join a physical meeting remotely via teleconference or video conference and be regarded as present at the meeting.

5. Decisions Outside of Meetings

Decisions may, at times, be required outside of meetings. In such circumstances trustees can vote via e-mail through the Governance Professional/Clerk.

Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair of the committee shall have a second or casting vote.

The Governance Professional will keep a record of e-mail responses to the decision. At the next committee meeting the decision will be formally ratified, and recorded in the minutes.

6. Responsibilities

- Monitor at MAT level pupil progress and attainment in each academy.
- Monitor at MAT level quality and inclusivity of learning and teaching in each academy.
- Monitor at MAT level outcomes and issues relating to pupil personal development and well-being.
- Advise the Local Governing Boards on the curriculum, taking into account Academy and statutory obligations.
- Identify any areas that would benefit from a MAT wide approach, including sharing of teaching and learning resources and approaches, and learning from practice.
- Report where vulnerabilities are identified in relation to OFSTED and SIAMS benchmarks.
- Scrutinise the outcomes of peer-review and the resources that are being directed to support academy improvement.
- Protect the individual ethos of both church and community academies and monitor the impact of the Church Schools Group.
- To ensure all relevant risks are included in the risk register which is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Receive and scrutinise reports from the Safeguarding Link/SEND Trustee at each meeting. Oversight to include the PREVENT duty
- Have oversight of school SEND arrangements (as per Governance Handbook 2.3.10) Committee can act as link SEND Trustee or appoint a link SEND trustee
- Have oversight of spending of Grant funding in terms of educational outcomes.
- Set and review the approach to directing pupils offsite, suspensions and exclusions

7. Risk Management Framework

Identify and areas of risk, gaining assurance that the financial and Operational risks are being effectively managed and reporting to the Audit and Risk Committee on any high risks or risks that are above the agreed appetite to risk, including but not limited to:

8. Advice and Guidance

The standards committee advises the Board of Trustees on the education standards across the trust, the implementation of SEND arrangements, safeguarding across the trust and church schools' effectiveness.

9. Reporting Procedures

Minutes will be presented at the next Full Board meeting identifying (i) decisions made, (ii) recommendations to the Trust Board, (iii) any items for the information of the Trust Board and (iv) items for further discussion by the Trust Board.

10. Review of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Committee and Committee effectiveness will be reviewed annually by the Board and this will include a review of membership of the Committee.