

LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES - TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2024

These Terms of Reference will come into effect in December 2023

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES	
1.1	Ventrus (the Trust) is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the leadership, management and administration of the Trust and the schools within it and under the powers of delegation set out in the Articles of Association they are required to appoint a Local Governing Body (LGB) for each school and are required to determine the constitution, membership and proceedings of all such LGBs. The following Terms of Reference set out the constitution, membership and proceedings of the LGBs and shall be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis.
2. FUNCTIONS OF LGBs	
2.1	The general role of the LGBs is to provide the local context, challenge and support to the Headteacher, ensuring the very best local offer is given in each school. The LGBs, through the Chairs group, also have a role in influencing and communicating with the Trustees on the strategic vision of the Trust going forward.
2.2	The specific powers and roles delegated by the Trustees to the LGBs are set out in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and are reflected in section 12 below.
3. COMPOSITION OF LGBs	
3.1	The LGBs in primary schools will be composed of 8 governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Headteacher (ex officio) • 1 Staff governor • 3 Parent governors • 3 Community governors (1 for church schools) • 2 Foundation governors (former VC schools only)
3.2	The LGBs in former Voluntary Aided (VA) primary schools will be composed of 9 governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Headteacher (ex officio) • 1 Staff governor • 5 Foundation governors • 2 Parent governor
3.3	The LGBs in secondary schools will compose of 11 governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Headteacher (ex officio) • 4 Parent governors • 2 Staff governors • 4 Community governors
3.4	LGBs may increase the number of governors beyond eight by co-opting up to two further governors with approval from the Trustees and EDEN
4. APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS	
4.1	Parent governor: an individual who has a child of school age attending the school and is elected by the parent body of the school. They do not have to stand down if their child leaves the school during their term of office. The LGB shall make all necessary arrangements for an election of parent members. It must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that every qualified candidate is informed of the vacancy, their entitlement to stand as a candidate and their right to vote. It will put procedures in place for an election through secret ballot in the event of there being more than one candidate and will ensure that all those entitled to vote in a secret ballot have the opportunity to do so. As per the Trust Articles of Association, Article 56, Directors can appoint a parent local governor.
4.2	Staff governor: an individual who is a contracted member of staff, usually elected by the staff of the school to ensure that staff views are represented on the LGB. The LGB shall invite nominations from all staff employed under a contract of employment at the school. If more than one nomination is received the LGB shall put procedures in place to have an election by way of a secret ballot. Staff can only be a staff governor at the school they work in, they are not eligible to be a parent, community, foundation or co-opted governor in the school in which they work.
4.3	Community governor: an individual who has the knowledge, skills and experience which the LGB require

	and are nominated and appointed by the parent, staff and ex-officio governors of the LGB.
4.4	Foundation governor (church schools only): an individual who is nominated by LGBs after prior consultation with the local PCC, the incumbent and the Diocese. Consent to the appointment is required from Exeter Diocese Education Network (EDEN)) prior to approval by the Trustees of Ventrus.
4.5	Co-opted governor: an individual who has the knowledge, skills and experience which the LGB require and are nominated and appointed by the parent, community, staff and ex-officio governors of the LGB. Co-opted governors require approval from the Trustees on appointment and do not have voting rights within the governing body.
4.6	The Clerk of each LGB must maintain an accurate and up to date list of all governors and must keep this list updated with the school administrator. The clerks of church schools must ensure that updated lists are also shared with the Diocese.
4.7	New governors will be ratified by the Trust on an annual basis. Interested parties will be allowed to register their interest and attend governing bodies as an observer within the preceding academic year as part of the induction process.
4.8	The LGB may act notwithstanding any vacancies but where the number of governors falls below the number fixed as a quorum for LGB meetings (see paragraph 10 below), the governors may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies.
4.9	For schools entering the Trust under sponsorship, the Foundation governors will require consent to the appointment from Exeter Diocese Education Network (EDEN) prior to approval by the Trustees of Ventrus. Community governors will need to be approved by Trustees and new elections will be held for staff and parent governors. The requirement for approval of Foundation and Community governors will lapse at the point the school is judged to be a 'good' or 'outstanding' school by Ofsted or at a point where the Trustees consider that there is no longer a need for Trustees approval of Foundation or Community governors at any given school.
5. TERM OF OFFICE	
5.1	The usual term of office for all governors will be four years except the Headteacher who will serve as ex-officio governor for as long as they remain in office.
6. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF GOVERNORS	
6.1	A governor may at any time resign their office by giving notice in writing to the Clerk to the LGB.
6.2	The LGB has the right to remove a governor if they are absent from three consecutive LGB meetings without the approval/permission of the Chair of the LGB or Headteacher.
6.3	A governor may be removed from office by the Trustees where they become disqualified from acting as governor as per statutory guidance for disqualification of Directors or where it is decided by the Trustees that they are not acting in the best interests of the school, its pupils or the Trust.
6.4	Any staff member shall automatically cease to hold office if they cease to be employed by the Trust. However, a parent governor shall not automatically cease to hold office solely by reason of the child (of whom the parent governor is a parent or carer) ceasing to be a pupil at the Trust.
7. UNDERTAKINGS OF GOVERNORS	
7.1	The governors shall, upon their appointment or election, give a written undertaking to the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), Members and the Trustees to uphold the objects of the Trust as set out in the Articles of Association and all policies and procedures agreed by the Trust or LGB from time to time.
7.2	The governors shall annually give a written undertaking to observe the Trust Code of Practice for Governors.
7.3	The Trustees expect all governors to engage in relevant training to support their governance including Diocesan training for church school governors.
8. ORGANISATION OF THE LGB	
8.1	The Chair of the LGB will be elected annually by the governors at the set up LGB0 meeting in each school year. The election procedure will be organised by the Clerk to the LGB who will receive written and/or verbal nominations; a governor can nominate themselves. If there is more than one candidate, nominees will be asked to leave the room, the remaining governors will vote by secret ballot and the Clerk will tally the vote. The appointment of all Chairs will be ratified by a majority vote of the Trustees.
8.2	In the absence of either the Chair or the Clerk at a meeting of the LGB, the LGB will agree a replacement for the meeting.

8.3	The LGB will meet as often as is necessary to fulfil its responsibilities but as a minimum, the LGB will meet at least once each term.
9. ADMINISTRATION OF MEETINGS	
9.1	The Clerk to the LGB will circulate an agenda and any papers at least one week before a meeting of the LGB. The Clerk will also send report templates (for Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Foundation (church schools only) and Special Educational Needs and Disability) to the relevant nominated governors at the beginning of the school term in which the meeting takes place.
9.2	It is expected that all governors have read the papers as long as they have been circulated in accordance with clause 9.1.
9.3	All recommendations and decisions made at a meeting of the LGB will be recorded accurately in writing. The minutes and next steps documents will be sent to the Headteacher and Chair for approval and the other LGB Governors by the Clerk of the LGB no later than two working weeks following the meeting. A copy of the documents should also be uploaded to the relevant folder in the LGB SharePoint.
10. QUORUM AND VOTING	
10.1	The quorum for any meeting of the LGB is 50% of those governors of the LGB currently appointed (rounded to the nearest whole number) provided that there are no less than three Governors at the meeting, two of whom are not employed by the Trust.
10.2	Each governor shall have one equal vote. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair of the LGB will have the casting vote.
11. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS	
11.1	The Trustees may request the Chair of the LGB to attend any Trustees' meeting and present a summary of the issues discussed and recommendations made at any previous LGB meeting.
11.2	The Chair of the LGB is expected to attend termly Chairs of LGBs meetings with fellow LGB Chairs and Trustees.
11.3	Any Trustees may attend any meeting of an LGB.
11.4	The Directors of School Improvement are entitled to attend any LGB meetings in an advisory capacity.
11.5	Any governor may request the Chair to invite persons who are not members of the LGB to attend its meetings.
12. MATTERS DELEGATED TO LGBs IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION	
12.1	Governance
12.1.1	Appoint the Chair of the LGB subject to the approval of the Trustees.
12.1.2	Appoint (and review) on an annual basis nominated governors for Health & Safety; Safeguarding; Special Educational Needs and Disability.
12.1.3	Update on an annual basis individual governor Declaration of Business and Pecuniary Interests forms, signed acceptance of the Code of Practice and verbally declare personal interests relating to the agenda at each meeting.
12.2	Policies
12.2.1	Approve the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Worship & RE • School Behaviour policies
12.2.2	Consider and provide feedback to the Trustees on the draft Admissions policy.
12.2.3	Monitor implementation of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusions policy • Health & Safety policy • Safeguarding policy • Special Educational Needs and Disability policy
12.2.4	Consider and feedback on the following as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of LGB meeting dates • Teaching & support staff appointments • Sex Education & Relationships policy • School times of day & term dates • Change of school age range • School critical incident plan • Careers guidance

<p>12.3</p>	<p>Headteacher Support and Challenge Provide challenge to the Headteacher in relation to all aspects of local school leadership including in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of the school’s vision • Monitoring the spend and impact of Sports Funding (Primary Schools) • Monitoring the spend and impact of Pupil Premium • Monitoring the spend and impact of other DfE funding as requested by Trustees • SEF judgements • Evaluation of school performance data • Monitoring & evaluating RE and Collective Worship (church schools only) • Monitoring Christian Distinctiveness (church schools only) • School organisation / numbers on roll • Reviewing quality of teaching
<p>12.4</p>	<p>Annual Reviews The following are to be monitored and reviewed throughout the year as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School budget • School curriculum design including EYFS • Curriculum delivery • Pupil achievement • E-safety • School website compliance • School Improvement Plan • Attendance figures and setting of attendance targets • Parental surveys • School security arrangements • Local service contracts • Exclusions • Data Breaches • School critical incident plan • Equalities legislation compliance
<p>12.5</p>	<p>Reporting to Trustees/Trust Following each meeting report to the Trustees or appropriate Trust personnel in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and questions for Trustees arising from the meeting of the LGB • Innovative work within the school • Areas of significant risk to the school or the Trust