

Inspirational Learning Academies Trust

Structure/Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND:

THE INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING ACADEMIES TRUST IS MADE UP OF 1 SPONSOR ACADEMY, NEWSTEAD, AND 2 SPONSORED ACADEMIES, NORTON LE MOORS AND WHITFIELD VALLEY ALL BASED IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OF STOKE ON TRENT. THE SPONSOR ACADEMY IS AN OUTSTANDING PROVIDER (INSPECTED JULY 2024). WHITFIELD VALLEY IS AN OUTSTANDING PROVIDER (INSPECTED JULY 2024). NORTON LE MOORS IS A GOOD PROVIDER AND AWAITING ITS NEXT INSPECTION.

Purpose:

Our board has 3 strategic core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding CEO/executive leaders/Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the trust/school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the trust/school and making sure its money is well spent.

Members: These have ultimate control over the trust. They have the right to:

- Remove trustees
- Amend the articles of association
- Receive annual accounts
- Appoint the auditors

The trust has 5 active members as follows;

Mrs Eileen Harvey – founding Trust member and original governor

Mr Alan Irving - founding Trust member and original governor

Mrs Lynsey Cartlidge

Father Brian Statham

Mr Steven Davies

Trustees(known as Trust Directors Board): These are responsible for :

- Establishing and overseeing the running of the academies
- Strategic planning

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- Setting policies and standards

The trust has 9 active Directors as follows;

Rev. Ann Ballard (Trust Chair)

Mrs Eileen Harvey (Trust Vice Chair)

Fr Tommy Merry (Trust Vice Chair)

Mrs Leanne Barrow (Trust Finance Chair)

Mr Alan Irving

Mrs Pauline smith

Mr Ben Mills

Mr Dave Evans

Mrs Amanda Davies

Mrs Laura Redman

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: This group is responsible for;

- Receiving the medium term plans each term
- Receiving budget forecasts both medium and long term
- Ensuring best value for money in terms of staffing and expenditure priorities

This group is made up of 6 of the already existing directors.

See Risk Management Policy and Risk Register for Specific remit of the committee.

Local Governing Body: These are committees responsible for feeding back to the directors. Each local governing body is attached to a school and has a director attached to it to ensure clarity of information received. The main purpose of the local governing body is to create a relationship with the school community and to act as a critical friend to its school and stakeholders. The information they gather through on the ground monitoring allows them to;

- Quality assure practice, systems and procedures across each school
- Feedback to directors on findings of the quality assurance process
- See work in action and gain an understanding of its impact to raising standards in each school
- Monitor progress and attainment of the most vulnerable pupils in each school (pupil premium) to ensure strategies delivered help these groups to progress given their starting points
- Ensure each school is working well towards achieving the school development priorities.

Each school has an active local governing body with varying stakeholders ranging from local community members, parents and staff. All monitoring is recorded in the governor monitor plans.

Quorum:

3/5 members

4/9 Trust Directors

4/6 Finance, audit and risk committee

Meetings:

The members will meet annually to receive the CEO report and annual accounts. Annual accounts returns are made available to the public.

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The trust director board will meet 6 times per year towards the end of each half term. Minutes of the meetings will be shared with the board and a signed copy will be kept in the ILAT office. The clerk is externally employed.

The finance, audit and risk committee meet with the external finance strategic consultant 3 times per year, once each term. The clerk is externally employed.

Local Governing Bodies meet 6 times per year, once per half term. These meetings are clerked by the School Business Managers from each school site to ensure continued transparency.

Policies and compliance:

The Trust will work according to their Articles of Association last updated 10/10/2024.

The Trust work within the Academy Trust Handbook 2025.

The Trust will follow a scheme of delegation reviewed annually by the Directors.

The board will review and ratify all policies in line with ESFA/DfE requirements.

All policies are reviewed regularly by directors and a record is kept in each school.

Monitoring:

The trust director board will be responsible for:

- Monitoring pupil premium spending
- Ensuring that the National Curriculum is taught to all pupils
- Checking that the statutory required information is published on the school's website
- Ensuring that health and safety regulations are followed
- Ensure that the financial policies and procedures manual is adhered to

The Local Governing Body at each school has a unique governor monitoring plan which allows the governor to quality assure the following;

- Quality of education
- Behavior and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and Management
- Early Years Provision

Approved by the Trust Board of Directors:
Autumn Term 2025

Next review date:
Autumn Term 2026