

LLT Board Terms of Reference and Governance Guide

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Governance

Introduction

Lydiate Learning Trust (LLT) was formed in January 2015 by the leaders of Deyes High, following successful collaborative working and school to school support in the North West.

The schools currently within the Trust are;

- Deyes High School (Sponsor)
- Childwall Sports and Science Academy
- The Studio @ Deyes
- AMP School Centred Initial Teacher Training Centre (SCITT)

Our Approach to Governance

We take Governance very seriously and recruit Directors and Governors who bring a wide range of relevant skills to both the Board and the Governing Bodies within the Trust. Our priority is to discharge our Governance duties in a highly professional manner, as described in our Articles of Association (available on our website).

The Trust has a small group of Members (or Trustees) who are considered the custodians of the Trust. They have a hands-off role and act as an important check and balance on Trust performance.

The Trust Members are;

- Mr John Graham
- Mr Graham Hewer
- Vacancies x 3

The Members are in essence, the shareholders of the company and have three main functions;

- Approve the Trust accounts and appoint the Auditors.
- Appoint Directors.
- Appoint the Chief Executive.

Company law details the rights of Members and explains that they may;

- Wind up the Trust.
- Amend the Articles of Association.
- Appoint Directors.
- Remove Directors.

The main business of the Trust is then led and managed by a Board of Directors, supported by the **Finance & Performance Sub-Committee** (Terms of Reference on our website) and the **Trust Executive Team**.

The Board of Directors has strategic oversight and ultimate responsibility for all management decisions within the Trust. The Board is accountable to the Members and in turn, delegates some powers to the Trust Executive Team and to the Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors in each school.

A document detailing the specific delegations (Lydiat Learning Trust Governance & Executive Responsibility), can be found on our website.

The Trust Board of Directors are;

- Mr John Graham (Chair)
- Mrs Ann Stahler (Executive Head Teacher)
- Mr Graham Hewer (Trust Appointed)
- Ms Helen Heap (Trust Appointed)
- Ms Louise Rooney (Trust Appointed)
- Vacancies x 3 (Trust Appointed)
- Ms Karen Wiggins (Non-Voting) (Director of Finance & Operations)
- Ms Wendy Jack (Non-Voting) (Director of School Improvement)

The Board meets bi-monthly and the broad operating framework and priorities for the Trust are set at the first meeting of each academic year. Thereafter, each meeting will take reports from the Executive Head Teacher and the Director of Finance and Resources.

Trust Board Meetings

Trust Board Meetings are held on a Tuesday evening and the dates are published on the LLT website. Meetings are typically held bi-monthly.

The Company Secretary and Senior Clerk to the Trust is Mrs Deborah Moss. She can be contacted direct on mobile number 0785 314 0551 or at the following email address - d.moss@deyeshigh.co.uk

The Trust Board will;

- Develop and communicate a clear strategy for the future of the Trust, explaining the vision and the aims.
- Set aspirational targets and review performance regularly – to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students.
- Be accountable for the performance of all schools in the Trust.
- Take risks and innovate where necessary to sustain and further develop the Trust.
- Work collaboratively with staff and stakeholders.
- Reflect on its own performance and identify areas for growth and improvement.

The reporting cycle will cover;

- Maximisation of Trust Resources
- Progress against School Improvement Plans
- Management of SEN and Inclusion
- Safeguarding
- Admissions
- The Trust Annual Report

** Detailed reports on other Board business will be dealt with at sub-committee/Executive Team level.

The Trust Board will ensure that through the Executive Team and delegations to the local Boards of Governors, the governance, leadership and management of the individual schools is maintained within the specific school settings.

Each Board of Governors is responsible for delivering the overarching strategic direction of the Trust, challenging the pace and level of progress and ensuring that a school specific improvement plan is in place and being actively managed.

The current Chairs of the Boards of Governors are;

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Deyes High School | Mrs. Susan Wilkinson |
| • Childwall Sports and Science Academy | Dr Sandra Hiatt |
| • The Studio @Deyes High | Ms. Helen Heap |

Whilst committed to delegating functions to each local Board of Governors, the Trust Board has a duty to intervene as necessary in the governance of any school in the Trust if serious concerns are raised about performance. In doing so, it may remove any or all of the delegations if this is in the best interests of the students and staff.