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## Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (Company No. 08980079) ("DDAT") and Derby Diocesan Academy Trust 2 (Company No. 09442311) ("DDAT2")<sup>1</sup>

### Education and Standards Committee Terms of Reference

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Education and Standards Committee is to support the Trust in the delivery of its vision, which is for all our schools to provide its pupils with a substantial, broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring that they are fully immersed in knowledge, skills, vocabulary, opportunities, responsibilities and experiences relevant to the world in which they live. The values and ethos that DDAT is built upon are Christian in nature and represent values and principles that are important to people of all faiths and no faith.
- 1.2. In particular, the Education and Standards Committee will:
  - Oversee outcomes for the pupils in each school, providing challenge and support for school leaders and officers of the Trust.
  - Ensure decisions taken in each school are in the best interests of the pupils and fully reflect the Christian principles and values that provide our foundation.
  - Develop DDAT's capability to lead and improve schools whilst preserving their individual distinctiveness.
- 1.3. The Committee will achieve these core purposes through:
  - Ensuring effective strategic direction is based upon high quality school evaluation and development planning.
  - Monitoring the outcomes across the Trust, holding local boards accountable for each school.
  - Receiving and discussing termly reports from the DDAT Head of School Improvement.
  - Setting targets for improvement taking into account our Christian foundation, local and national contexts, and providing advice for local governing bodies.
  - Identifying best practice from within and outside DDAT, including methods of assessment, and supporting high quality professional and curriculum development across the Trust.
  - Liaising with Local Governing Bodies to ensure they fulfil their roles and responsibilities as set out in the schemes of delegation.
  - Involvement in the appointments of senior school leaders and in the appraisal of Headteachers.
  - Providing the Trust Board with information as requested in a timely manner.

#### 2. Authority

- 2.1. The Committee is a committee of the Trust Board and is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the Board. The Committee is authorised to:
  - Request any information it requires from any employee.
  - Obtain outside legal or independent professional advice it considers necessary, normally in consultation with the Accounting Officer and/or the Trust Board.

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<sup>1</sup> the companies are also referred to as "Trusts" or each a "Trust".

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### **3. Membership**

- 3.1. Membership will comprise a minimum of three Directors, at least one of whom shall have relevant skills and experience. Additionally, the Board may co-opt up to two persons to the Committee who are not Directors.
- 3.2. The Chair of the Committee will be appointed annually by the Board. The Committee will not normally appoint a Vice-Chair.
- 3.3. Membership and terms of reference will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. Trust staff shall not be eligible for membership. The Committee shall undertake an annual review of these terms of reference and recommend to the Trust Board for approval any changes needed.
- 3.4. The Chief Executive Officer and Head of School Improvement should attend to provide information and participate in discussions.

### **4. Meetings**

- 4.1. The Committee will meet as necessary and at least three times a year. The Chair or any two members may call a meeting.
- 4.2. The agenda for meetings will be agreed in advance by the Chair of the Committee and papers will be circulated at least seven clear days in advance of the meeting.
- 4.3. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the members shall choose another member, who is also a Director of the Board, to act as Chair for that meeting.
- 4.4. All meetings will be minuted and reports given at every future full Trust Board meeting.

### **5. Quorum**

- 5.1. The Committee will require a quorum of two Directors who are members of the Committee.
- 5.2. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.

### **6. Duties**

- 6.1. The duties of the Education and Standards Committee are:
- 6.2. Curriculum and Quality
  - a) To monitor the schools' statutory requirements in relation to the curriculum offer and other curriculum issues such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning.
  - b) To monitor curriculum breadth, depth, progression and accessibility holding local boards accountable for each school.
  - c) To receive reports which include the development and impact of CPD and training opportunities for employees who are student facing.
  - d) To ensure systems and procedures are in place to meet educational needs of the pupils attending the Trust's schools.
  - e) To review and evaluate the Trust's education policies that are applicable to the Trust Board.

### 6.3. Performance and Standards

- a) To monitor and review the achievement of strategic objectives, in particular the overview of performance against quantitative and qualitative benchmarks for key indicators/outcomes and the Ofsted framework, providing challenge and reviewing impact of leadership actions and initiatives.
- b) To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Trust's distinctive Christian Vision and Values, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling DDAT's academies, pupils and staff to flourish.
- c) To review the outcomes of assessments across the Trust, holding local boards accountable for each School.
- d) To review and monitor Pupil Premium expenditure, Sports Premium and SEND provision on behalf of the Board, and the impact on outcomes for these pupils.
- e) To receive reports and evaluate issues relating to pupil attendance, behaviour and discipline, including rewards and sanctions, bullying, internet bullying and exclusions.
- f) To undertake an annual check to ensure that all schools across the MAT have statutory policies in place that continue to comply with national guidance, including in particular policies relating to child protection, safeguarding, Prevent and SEND.
- g) In liaison with the Safeguarding Director to monitor and oversee Prevent, safeguarding and child protection arrangements across all schools.
- h) To receive reports on, and challenge the provision and effectiveness of, staff training, performance management and staff welfare.
- i) To ensure effective independent and impartial careers advice is provided across the Trust, and that schools accurately measure the progress and destination of all leavers.
- j) To support the DDAT Audit and Risk Committee with investigations of any whistleblowing allegations relating to educational matters.
- k) To review any parental complaints made against individual schools that have been referred by the Trust Board.
- l) To ensure that all Trustees have access to appropriate training courses to enable them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

### 6.4. Raising Achievement Board (RAB)

- a) The Education Committee will set up a Raising Achievement Board (RAB) where there is educational cause for concern. The Education Committee will ask the Headteacher to present a plan to rectify underperformance and to explain the plan, in person, to a specially convened meeting. The RAB will be made up of suitably qualified people able to fulfil this function.

### 6.5. Self-Assessment and Review

- a) To receive progress reports on the implementation of post-Ofsted action plans.
- b) To review any other formal internal or external evaluation reports related to the quality and achievement of learning across the Trust, to further inform and develop the Trust's plans and strategies.
- c) To review outcomes, identifying significant changes in performance, emerging trends and risks in relation to the future performance of each school.

<p><b>Approved by DDAT Board on:</b></p> <p><b>Signed:</b></p>	<p>16th October 2023</p> <p>DocuSigned by:</p> <p><i>Sarah Charles</i> Chair of the Board</p> <p>F81C2294DC434F9...</p>
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