

Members of The Family of Learning Trust – oversee and hold the Trustees to account for the governance arrangements. Current members are N Najib, D Mellalieu, S Handsley, A Helliwell and Zaheer Khalil. The members are the ‘Guardians’ of the governance of the trust.

Members of the Trust:

As specified in The Family of Learning Trust ‘Articles of Association’ we are permitted to have a MAT board up to a maximum of 12 Trustees.

The members appoint these ‘Trustees’ to ensure that the Trust’s charitable objects are carried out and as so the members can remove Trustees if they fail to fulfil this responsibility.

Typical academy objects are as seen in our ‘model articles.’

Current Trustees

Anthony Hillyard
Shameem Hussain
Nadim Najib
Christopher Swallow
Sophie Loreen

We continue to seek to strengthen the HR and Premises expertise to the MAT Board. Those sitting on our board of Trustees are both ‘charity trustees’ and ‘company directors’ and have 2 sets of responsibilities as outlined below.

Responsibilities of charity trustees

... these are “The people responsible under the academy trust’s articles of association for controlling its management and administration. They have responsibility for directing its affairs and for ensuring that it is solvent, well run, and delivering the trust’s charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public”

Please see the Charity Commission’s guide – The Essential Trustee - which sets out the core responsibilities for all charity trustees:

- Ensure your charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- Understand how the charity benefits the public by carrying out its purposes
- Act in your charity’s best interests
- Manage your charity’s resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Ensure your charity is accountable

Responsibilities as company directors

With the exception of the CEO the directors are non-executive directors.

Their responsibilities are “...to provide a creative contribution to the board by providing objective criticism. Non-executive directors are expected to focus on board matters and not stray into ‘executive direction’, thus providing an independent view of the company that is removed from day-to-day running.’

These trustee duties as directors overlap and are similar to those that apply under charity law. These are to:

1. Act within powers
2. Promote the success of the company
3. exercise independent judgement
4. exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
5. avoid conflicts of interest
6. not to accept benefits from third parties
7. declare any interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement

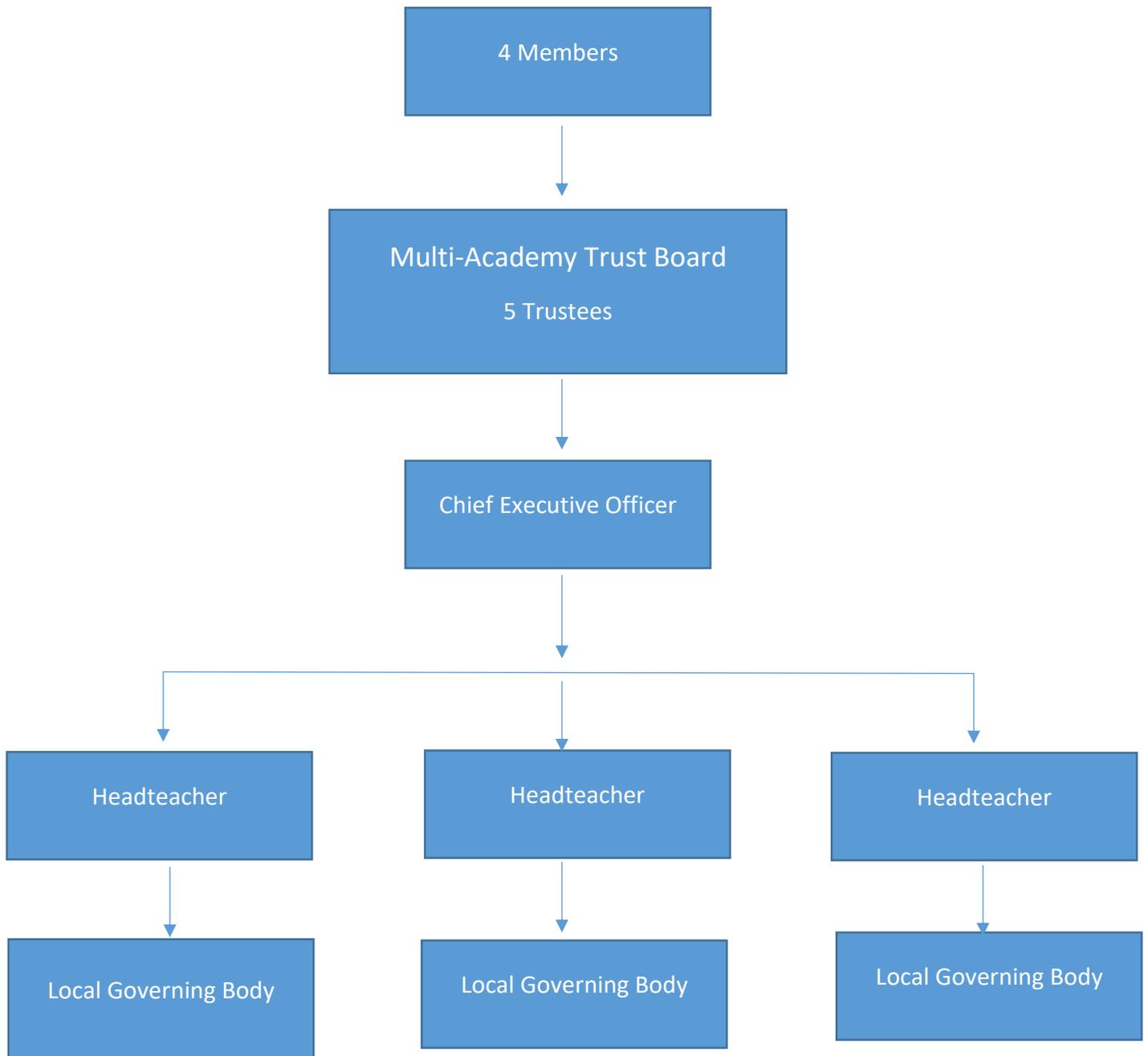
The MAT board makes strategic decisions about the running of the trust. **The DFE's Governance Handbook** – This set out the core functions for governing boards of schools:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the trust
- holding the CEO to account for the performance of the schools, their pupils and the performance of the staff
- overseeing the financial performance of the trust and ensuring that money is well spent

The MAT board decides which functions it will reserve for itself and which it will delegate to academy committees (calling these Local Governing Boards). This includes schemes of delegation with flexibilities for schools in different Ofsted/vulnerability positions. A sample scheme of delegation can be found below. This is reviewed on an annual basis by the Trust Board.

Delegation diagram:

Proposed Multi-Academy Trust model



This model shows the basic structure across the MAT for accountability and information gathering/sharing. Each of the academy Local Governing Body or council will have the

same schedule of meetings happening at the same times of year. They will have delegated powers from the Trust board.

Each academy has the same rights and autonomy as the others as long as they are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Any schools joining that are judged to be 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' would not have the same autonomy initially. A clear risk assessment and due-diligence would be completed and support put in place to ensure these schools are able to become 'Good' or better, which in turn would bring autonomy. All schools will report to the Trust Board.

In turn the Local Academy Governing Board will meet to address its delegated responsibility areas and report outcomes for the MAT board. These will be best set for each half term to both receive and feed into MAT board intelligence. Recruitment for the LGB of the academies will be based on current setup and skill sets needs, then approval by MAT board of membership.

[See Scheme of Delegation](#)