

## Challenger Multi Academy Trust (CMAT) Governance Statement

The current Governance Structure with Challenger Multi Academy Trust is as follows:



The arrangements for governance within Challenger Multi Academy Trust are set out in the [scheme of delegation](#).

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The functions of the Trust are discharged by its various boards, committees and key posts. In summary these are:

### 1. Members

As charitable companies limited by guarantee every trust has members who have a similar role to the shareholders of a company limited by shares. They:

- are the subscribers to the Trust's memorandum of association (where they are founding members)
- may amend the articles of association (the articles include a definition of the Trust's charitable objects and governance structure) subject to any restrictions in the articles or in the Trust's funding agreement or charity law
- have powers to appoint and remove trustees in certain circumstances
- appoint the Trust's auditors and receive the trust's audited annual accounts (subject to the Companies Act).

As responsibility to conduct the business of the trust in accordance with company and charity law, sits with the Trustees, members are 'eyes on and hands off' and avoid compromising the Board's discretion in exercising its responsibilities. However, if the governance of the Trust by the Board of Trustees becomes dysfunctional the Members will have a strong interest in ensuring the Board has sufficient plans to address the issues.

## **2. Trustees**

The Board of Trustees manages the business of the academy trust and should focus strongly on the three core functions of governance:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The Trustees must ensure compliance with the Trust's charitable objects and with company and charity law, and adherence to the Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

The Trustees are also company directors for CMAT.

The Board can delegate tasks to committees and individuals but is always accountable for these tasks.

Details of members and trustees can be [found here](#).

## **3. The Board of Trustees**

The CMAT Trustees, acting as a board, are permitted to exercise all the powers of the academy trust. The trustees delegate certain governance functions and details of these are set out in the Committee terms of reference and the scheme of delegation.

The Trust must review its delegations at least annually and can have different delegations for each academy within the Trust depending on its circumstances.

## **4. CMAT Committees**

The Board has established three committees to support and inform the overall work of the Board. The two committees are:

- Standards
- Finance, Risk and Audit
- Pay Committee

## **5. Local Governing Bodies(LGB)**

Each academy has a Local Governing Body. Their responsibilities are set out in the scheme of delegation.

## **6. Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

The CEO has overall responsibility for all operational matters with CMAT and delivering its strategic objectives as agreed by the Board. The CEO is directly accountable to the Board and is also the Accounting Officer for the Trust.

Headteachers, as the lead professional in each academy, are responsible for the day to day management of their academy. They report to and are held to account by the LGB for the academy.