



# Academy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Version: 1

Date: 01/09/2023

[thesovereigntrust.uk](https://thesovereigntrust.uk)

The Sovereign Trust is a Multi Academy Trust registered in England No. 09666511. Registered Office: Manor Academy Sale, Manor Avenue, Sale M33 5JX



## Document Control

<b>Title</b>	Academy Advisory Committee Term of Reference
<b>Supersedes</b>	0
<b>Owner</b>	Lisa-Marie Flynn
<b>Circulation/Distribution</b>	AAC
<b>Review Period</b>	Annually

## Version History

<b>Next Review Date</b>		01/09/2025		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Status</b>

## Contents

1. PURPOSE & SCOPE.....	4
2. COMPOSITION OF THE ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	4
1 x Co-opted education governor.....	4
2 x Co-opted community governors (with the option to expand <sup>1</sup> to a maximum of 4) .....	4
3 x Parent governors (with option to expand <sup>1</sup> to a maximum of 5) .....	4
1 x Staff Governor.....	5
3. TERM OF OFFICE.....	5
4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	5
5. ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMLY CYCLE.....	6
6. MEETING ETIQUETTE .....	6
7. ADMINISTRATION TIMESCALES .....	7
8. COMMITTEE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES .....	7

## 1. Purpose & Scope

Advisory committees are not responsible for operational issues. They act as a 'critical friend' by: -

- Providing strategic governance support to ensure pupils receive the best possible education.
- Monitoring and evaluating school performance.
- Providing support and challenge to the Headteacher and senior leadership team.
- Engaging with the wider community.

## 2. Composition of the Academy Advisory Committee

Academy advisory committees will comprise at least seven members as follows: -

### 1 x Co-opted education governor

- Education governors will have school senior leadership team experience and will usually be appointed by the Trustees/the CEO. This post will be designated as 'Chair'.
- They will be neither a member of staff nor a parent of an academy pupil. They may be trustees if they have the required education and experience.

### 2 x Co-opted community governors (with the option to expand<sup>1</sup> to a maximum of 4)

- Any potential new co-opted governors must satisfy the existing advisory committee with the requisite skills to govern the academy before co-option effectively.
- Co-opted governors are appointed to the advisory committee by the governance team/CEO.
- So long as they meet the criteria and are not also a member of Trust staff, one co-opted governor may be the parent of a child who is on a roll at another academy within the Trust.

### 3 x Parent governors (with option to expand<sup>1</sup> to a maximum of 5)

- Any potential new parent governors must satisfy the existing advisory committee by showing they are willing to participate and, ideally, some useful skills/experience to assist and support the academy.
- Parent governors shall be appointed by election unless the number nominated / interested in joining the advisory committee is fewer or equal to the number of vacancies available.
- Must be a parent of a child attending the academy to which the advisory committee relates.
- If they wish to, a parent governor may serve out their term of office once their child leaves the academy, as long as there are always two parent governors of current, on-roll pupils.

- Should an elected parent governor later become employed by the Trust, they must step down from their role as governor.

### 1 x Staff Governor

- One staff governor will be the Headteacher of the academy, appointed 'ex officio'

<sup>1</sup> Where governors choose to elect/appoint any additional parent/co-opted community governors, consideration must be given to the overall 'parent to co-opted community governor ratio' so that there is fair representation

## 3. Term of Office

- Other than the Headteacher, the standard term of office for advisory committee governors will be 4 years when re-appointment/re-election is required.
- The maximum length of service will be two terms of office, subject to possible extension as agreed by the Board of Trustees.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities of the Academy Advisory Committee

The Board of Trustees requires each academy advisory committee to develop effective working relationships and practices relative to each academy's development plan objectives and targets: -

- review outcomes for pupils, their attainment, and progress (including pupil premium and sports premium where appropriate)
- monitor and challenge the implementation of: -
  - \* LAC policies/performance of LAC pupils
  - \* SEND policies/performance of SEND pupils
  - \* Statutory safeguarding obligations and policies
- monitor implementation of pupil/student behaviour policies
- monitor and review the quality of teaching, leadership, and management
- regularly review/make recommendations about the Accessibility Plan
- through the Chair, make observations/suggestions to the Chief Executive Officer regarding cost savings and/or staffing
- support parent communication and community engagement
- monitor and review pupil enrichment (e.g. trips and visits, breakfast and after-school clubs, extracurricular activities, funding opportunities)
- to form a panel of governors at Stage 3 of the complaint's procedure
- Where required, the co-opted governor will lead the complaints at Stage 3 (or where required by the CEO to oversee Stage 2.5) of the complaint's procedure.
- In line with the DfE statutory guidance on Exclusions from maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England, governors to form a panel of governors to consider reinstatement of a

permanently excluded pupil or when the total number of fixed-term exclusion days exceeds 15 in a term.

A co-opted governor should lead on the exclusion panel.

## 5. Academy Advisory Committee Termly Cycle

The Chair will meet with/contact the parent and co-opted governors to agree: -

- \* the purpose and date(s) for that term's assessment and review
- \* agenda items for the end-of-term meeting
- \* tasks/purpose of school visits for governors, including the expected deadline for completion and reporting of any findings (and to whom)
- The parent and co-opted community governors will provide the education specialist(s) with the findings of their visits/reports
- The Headteacher will provide reports/data to the advisory committee.
- The Chair will undertake a termly assessment and review of the academy and collate their and the parent /co-opted community governor's findings.
- Findings will be presented/discussed at the termly meeting along with the Headteacher's report (and will be presented to the Trust Education Performance Committee as required)

## 6. Meeting Etiquette

- The advisory committee will meet as often as is necessary to fulfil its responsibilities, but at least once per academic term;
- In addition to the head teacher (or school representative), the quorum for the academy advisory committee meetings shall comprise three governors, of which one should be co-opted;
- The Chair leads on and sets agenda items;
- Should any conflict specific to a meeting agenda item or relationship arise, governors must remove themselves from that part of the meeting;
- When decisions requiring a vote are raised, each member of the advisory committee will have one equal vote. Where there is an equal division of votes, the casting vote resides with the Chair. Attendance/voting cannot be done by proxy but may be done electronically (e.g. conference or video conference call);
- Any member of the advisory committee may request that the Chair invite additional guests to attend or contribute to a meeting (but this person will not have any voting privileges);
- Resignations (actual or planned) should be announced at meetings. Any resignation does not become formal until approved and recorded in the meeting minutes.

## 7. Administration Timescales

- As final meeting agendas and supporting papers should be distributed to the advisory committee at least one week before the meeting, the Chair / Headteacher should ensure that these are prepared and provided to the governance support team in advance.
- Each advisory committee member is expected to read the papers before the meeting.
- Any recommendations, decisions and action points will be recorded in minutes. Individuals should note and enforce any actions delegated to them.
- Draft minutes will be first forwarded to the Chair for initial content approval. The draft minutes will form part of the papers distributed with the agenda for the subsequent meeting and will be approved in that meeting. Where possible, the draft minutes will also be distributed to the rest of the advisory committee as soon as practicable so they have additional time to read them.

## 8. Committee Relationship with the Board of Trustees

- The terms of reference and structure provide the framework of the academy advisory committees and are approved by the Board of Trustees, who may amend them from time to time.
- The Board of Trustees relies on the academy advisory committee to assist its ambitions for each academy to be outstanding and may assist by appointing or removing members where appropriate.
- The Chair of each committee should meet once per term with the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, who will provide feedback at the term/governing body meeting.
- Academy advisory committee members may be invited to meet with representatives of the Board or Trust committees, individually or collectively, to discuss roles and responsibilities concerning their academy's development plan and any other issues as appropriate. Discussion topics should be agreed upon in advance.
- Any member of the Board of Trustees may attend an academy advisory committee meeting (but they will not have voting privileges on any advisory committee decision).