SHARE MAT Standards Committee Terms of Reference 2026 - 27

1. Purpose

The role of the trust board:

In trusts, the purpose of governance is to provide:

- strategic leadership
- accountability and assurance
- strategic engagement

The board has collective accountability and strategic responsibility for the trust. It has a focus on ensuring the trust delivers an excellent education to pupils while maintaining effective financial management and **must** ensure compliance with:

- the trust's charitable objects
- regulatory, contractual and statutory requirements
- their funding agreement

The **standards committee** reports to and is accountable to the trust board. The board have determined that the committee will:

- Support and hold trust leaders to account for achieving our strategic objectives (add link to trust strategy), specifically in our aim of delivering 'An Outstanding Curriculum & Pedagogy' and the relevant elements of our 'Overcoming Disadvantage' and 'Building Positive Communities' goals
- Assure trustees that the trust achieves the standards for 'High Quality and Inclusive Education' and 'School Improvement', as described in the five pillars of Academy Excellence: pillars of quality for academy trusts
- Take the lead role in fulfilling the board's responsibilities for the curriculum, pedagogy, school improvement and pupil outcomes, as described in the Academy trust governance guide - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Assure itself that trust schools are achieving high standards against the OFSTED inspection framework, particularly in relation to the Quality of Education, and some aspects of the Personal Development curriculum: Inspection Handbook

2. Membership

The standards committee is a committee of the trust board and will consist of:

- At least 2 directors, one of whom will chair the committee and act as the statutory lead for whistleblowing.
- At least 1 governor from each of the SHARE MAT local governing bodies
- Up to 2 co-opted members.

The members of the committee are appointed annually by the trust board.
The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be invited to attend the committee meetings but will not be a member of the committee. The CEO may delegate this responsibility to other executive leaders or ask other staff to attend, so that the most appropriate person is able to answer

questions or lead any agreed actions. Any other members of staff or external professionals may be invited to attend the relevant meeting as required. The CEO or delegate will ensure the committee receives any reasonably requested information or reports in good time for the meetings.

3. Meetings

The committee will meet 3 times per year in advance of the trust board meetings. The Chair will report to the trust board and governors will report back to their local governing body.
The quorum shall be at least three members, one of whom must be a director.
The administration of meetings will be managed by the clerk to the directors. Agenda and papers will be circulated to members of the committee 7 days in advance of the meeting.
Any decision taken must be determined by a majority of votes of committee members present and voting.

4. Authority

The committee will report to the board on any decision taken in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
The committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its term of reference or specifically delegated to it by the board.
The committee is authorised to obtain any legal and professional advice it considers necessary, normally in consultation with the chair of the trust board.

5. Main Duties

The committee will:

- Ensure curriculum and teaching policies reflect an ambition for educational excellence rooted in the trust's positive culture and ethical practice
- Assure itself the curriculum fulfils all statutory requirements, meets the needs of all pupils well and supports excellent outcomes for pupils
- Review the progress of the trust's strategic goals for quality of education matters, identifying appropriate metrics to measure success
- Consider the impact of policies on staff, ensuring workload is managed carefully
- Set and safeguard high expectations for the progress and attainment of all pupils, including those deemed to be disadvantaged or having a special educational need and / or disability or pupils other protected characteristics
- Help the trust achieve the best outcomes for pupils by understanding the needs of pupils, staff, parents, carers and local communities (context)
- Help to set and safeguard high standards of conduct and professionalism of its staff, particularly in terms of professional standards for teaching
- Hold senior leaders to account for improving pupil and staff performance by asking the right questions, informed by data
- Agree a range of metrics with leaders, including both quantitative and qualitative data, to measure progress and impact, including outcomes for learners with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and looked after children
- Compare pupil attainment and progress with local and national benchmarks over time, making use of DfE and OFSTED reports, such as Analyse School Performance (ASP) and the Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report
- Ensure the trust achieves the relevant standards described in SEND code of practice, helping all pupils have access to the full curriculum offer



- Scrutinise trust schools' pupil premium strategy statements and discuss the rationale for pupil premium spending with senior leader
- Monitor how PE and sport premium funding is being spent, how it fits into school improvement plans and the impact it is having on pupils.
- Assure itself that there are robust risk controls and management systems in place. Emerging risks should be highlighted to the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee/Board for discussion.

The committee will usually decide to undertake a more detailed, annual review or audit into one or two of the above responsibility areas. This may be with the support of an external partner or suitable organisation.

6. Work Programme

The board recognises the significant responsibilities placed on the committee. To support governors' and directors' workload, the committee will agree a cycle of activities over a three-to-five-year period and an annual plan. This should help the committee achieve the right balance between focusing on key aspects of its work in more detail and fulfilling statutory responsibilities in a timely manner.