Governance Arrangements

TRUSTEES

Horizons Education Trust (HEdT) is a specialist education Multi-Academy Trust governed by a Board of Trustees, whom hold the overarching responsibility and accountability of the Trust. The Board sets the Trust's strategic direction, safeguards its vision, values and purpose, and oversees educational performance, safeguarding, financial stewardship and organisational sustainability.

The Board is supported by committees with delegated responsibilities for key areas of the Trust's work, including Finance, People & Premises (including Audit & Risk), and Teaching, Learning & Welfare. Through focused scrutiny, challenge and assurance, our committees support the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities and maintaining effective oversight across the Trust.

MEMBERS

Members provide an important additional layer of accountability within the Trust's governance structure. They act as guardians of the Trust' purpose and constitution, appoint Trustees, receive the annual audited accounts and hold the Board to account for the effective governance of the organisation.

GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL

Executive oversight of governance is led by the Board's appointed Governance Professional; the Director of Governance & Communications, who has a key role in ensuring that governance arrangements across Horizons Education Trust are effective, compliant and consistently applied.

Working closely with the Chair of Trustees, Chief Executive Officer and wider Executive Team, the Director of Governance provides professional governance advice and ensures that the Board, its committees and local governance operate within the Trust's established governance framework.

The role provides Trust-wide oversight of governance compliance, statutory and regulatory requirements, policy and governance documentation, constitutional matters and the effective operation of the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. It also supports the timely flow of information and assurance through the governance structure, helping Trustees to exercise effective oversight and make informed decisions.

The Director of Governance also leads the development and coordination of governance across the Trust, supporting strong and consistent practice while maintaining clear lines of accountability, delegation and assurance between the Board, its committees, executive leadership and local governance.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Local governance at HEdT provides a connection between the Board, individual academies and the communities they serve. HEdT is developing its local governance arrangements in the pursuit of the delivery of its Assure, Represent & Champion (ARC) model. This focuses local governance on providing assurance to the Board, representing the voice and context of the academy community, and championing the needs, achievements and ambitions of pupils and staff.

The respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of all parties within the Trust's governance structure are established through a comprehensive framework of statutory, regulatory and constitutional documents, including the Trust's Articles of Association, Funding Agreements, the Academy Trust Handbook and the DfE Academy Trust Governance Guide.

These requirements are translated into the Trust's operational governance arrangements through its Scheme of Delegation and Committee Terms of Reference, which define the distribution of authority, delegated responsibilities, decision-making powers and reporting arrangements.

Together, these documents provide a clear framework for effective oversight, accountability and assurance across all levels of the Trust.
Together, these arrangements provide a clear framework for strategic oversight, effective challenge, informed decision-making and accountability, while ensuring that local knowledge and the voices of our serving communities remain an important part of governance at Horizons Education Trust.