THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

Horizons Education Trust

COMPANY NUMBER: 09896071

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Interpretation

1. In these Articles:-

   a. “the Academies" means all the schools and educational institutions referred to in Article 4a and operated by the Academy Trust (and “Academy” shall mean any one of those schools or educational institutions);

   b. “Academy Financial Year” means the academic year from 1st of September to 31st of August of the following year;

   c. “the Academy Trust” means the company intended to be regulated by these Articles and referred to in Article 2, subject to the definition of this term at Article 6.9(a) in relation to articles 6.2-6.4 and 6.6-6.8A;

   d. “the Articles” means these Articles of Association of the Academy Trust;

   e. “Chair” means the Chair of the Trustees, save that for the purposes of Articles 23 – 44 chair means the individual appointed as chair of a General Meeting pursuant to Article 25;

   f. “Chief Executive Officer” means such person as may be appointed by the Trustees as the Chief Executive Officer of the Academy Trust[1];

   g. “clear days” in relation to the period of a notice means the period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day on which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

   h. “Co-opted Trustee” has the meaning contained in Article 58;

   i. "electronic form” has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

   j. “financial expert” means an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;

   k. “Funding Agreement” means the agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State, including funding arrangements, obligations and termination provisions;

   l. “Governance Professional” means the Governance Professional to the Trustees or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the Governance Professional to the Trustees, including a joint, assistant or deputy Governance Professional;

   m. “Local Authority Associated Person” means any person associated (within the meaning given in section 69(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) with any local authority by which the Academy Trust is influenced;

[1] Optional.

n. “Local Governing Bodies” means the committees appointed pursuant to Articles 100-101A and 104 (and “Local Governing Body” means any one of these committees);

o. “Member” means a member of the Academy Trust and someone who, as such, is bound by the undertaking contained in Article 8;

p. “the Memorandum” means the Memorandum of Association of the Academy Trust;

q. “Office” means the registered office of the Academy Trust;

r. “Parent” includes any person with parental responsibility or care for a pupil, student, or child;

s. “Parent Local Governor” means the Parent member of a Local Governing Body elected or appointed in accordance with Articles 54-56;

t. “Parent Trustees” means the Trustees elected or appointed pursuant to Articles 53 – 56B inclusive;

u. “Principals" means the head teachers of the Academies (and “Principal” means any one of these head teachers);

v. “Principal Regulator” means the body or person appointed as the Principal Regulator under the Charities Act 2011;

w. “the seal” means the common seal of the Academy Trust, if it has one;

x. “Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Education or successor;

y. “Serious Criminal Offence” means any criminal offence excluding those which have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence, except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.

z. “Special Educational Needs” has the meaning set out in sections 20(1) and 21(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014;

aa. “teacher” means a person employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide their services as a teacher at one or more Academies;

bb. “the Trustees” means the directors of the Academy Trust (and “Trustee” means any one of those directors), subject to the definition of this term at Article 6.9(b) in relation to Articles 6.2-6.4 and 6.6-6.8A[2];

cc. “the United Kingdom” means Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

[2] Trustees perform similar governance functions to those of governing bodies in maintained schools.

dd. “Vice-Chair” means the Vice-Chair of the Trustees;

ee. words importing the singular number shall include the plural number, and vice versa;

ff. subject as aforesaid, words or expressions contained in these Articles shall, unless the context requires otherwise, bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006, as appropriate;

gg. any reference to a statute or statutory provision shall include any statute or statutory provision which replaces or supersedes such statute or statutory provision including any modification or amendment thereto;

hh. any reference to a document being ‘signed’ includes being executed under hand or seal or by any other method, and in the case of communication in electronic form, such references are to its being authenticated as specified by the Companies Act 2006;

ii. any reference to communication or documents being ‘in writing’ or ‘written’ includes communications or documents which are in electronic form.

Academy Trust name and registered office

2. The company's name is Horizons Education Trust (and in this document it is called "the **Academy Trust**").

3. The Academy Trust's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales.

Charitable objects

4. The Academy Trust's objects ("the **Objects**") are specifically restricted to the following:

   a. to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("the **mainstream Academies**") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the **alternative provision Academies**") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the **16 to 19 Academies**") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the **Special Academies**"); and

   b. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Powers of the Academy Trust

5. In furtherance of the Objects but not further or otherwise the Academy Trust may exercise the following powers:

a. to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name of the Academy Trust;

b. to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Academy Trust shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;

c. to acquire, alter, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge or otherwise dispose of property;

d. subject to Articles 6.6-6.8A below to employ such staff as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

e. to establish or support, whether financially or otherwise, any charitable companies, trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects;

f. to co-operate with other charities, other independent and maintained schools, academies and institutions within the further education sector, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects and to exchange information and advice with them;

g. to pay out of funds of the Academy Trust the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Academy Trust;

h. to establish, maintain, carry on, manage and develop the Academies at locations to be determined by the Trustees;

i. to offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to pupils and students and former pupils and former students, and otherwise to encourage and assist the educational attainment of pupils and students and former pupils and former students;

j. to provide educational facilities and services to students of all ages and the wider community for the public benefit;

k. to carry out research into the development and application of new techniques in education and to their approach to curriculum development and delivery and to publish the results of such research, and to develop means of benefiting from application of the experience of industry, commerce, other schools, educational institutions and the voluntary sector to the education of pupils and students in academies;

l. subject to such consents as may be required by law and/or by any contract entered into by or on behalf of the Academy Trust, to borrow and raise money for the furtherance of the Objects in such manner and on such security as the Academy Trust may think fit;

m. to deposit or invest any funds of the Academy Trust not immediately required for the furtherance of its Objects (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a financial expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);

n. to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert, but only on terms that:

    i. the investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Trustees;

    ii. every transaction is reported promptly to the Trustees;

    iii. the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees;

    iv. the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;

    v. the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;

    vi. all payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees

on receipt; and

vii. the financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Trustees;

o. to arrange for investments or other property of the Academy Trust to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the control of the Trustees or of a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;

p. to provide indemnity arrangements to Trustees in accordance with, and subject to the conditions of section 232 to 235 of the Companies Act 2006, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law applicable to charitable companies and any such indemnity is limited accordingly;

q. not used;

r. to establish subsidiary companies to carry on any trade or business for the purpose of raising funds for the Academy Trust; and

s. to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for or are incidental to or conducive to the achievement of the Objects.

Use of income and property

6.1 The income and property of the Academy Trust shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

6.2 None of the income or property of the Academy Trust may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any Member of the Academy Trust. Nonetheless a Member of the Academy Trust who is not also a Trustee[3] may:

a. benefit as a beneficiary of the Academy Trust;

b. be paid reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Academy Trust;

c. be paid rent for premises let by the Member to the Academy Trust if the

[3] A Member who is also a Trustee is subject to the restrictions on trustee benefits in articles 6.3 – 6.9.

amount of the rent and other terms of the letting are reasonable and proper; and

d. be paid interest on money lent to the Academy Trust at a reasonable and proper rate, such rate not to exceed 2% per annum below the base lending rate of a UK clearing bank selected by the Trustees, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher.

6.2A. The Trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by Article 6.2 to allow a benefit to a Member if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

a. the remuneration or other sums paid to the Member does not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances;

b. the Trustees are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Academy Trust to contract with that Member rather than with someone who is not a Member. In reaching that decision the Trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a Member against the disadvantages of doing so; and

c. the reason for their decision is recorded by the Trustees in the minute book.[4]

Trustees benefiting from indemnity arrangements

6.3 A Trustee may benefit from any indemnity arrangement purchased at the Academy Trust's expense or any arrangement so agreed with the Secretary of State to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such arrangement shall not extend to: (i) any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees (or any of them) knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees (or any of them) in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and (ii) the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees (or any of them) in their capacity as directors of the Academy Trust. Further, this Article does not authorise a Trustee to benefit from any

[4] This wording largely replicates the procedure for authorising a benefit to Trustees as set out in Article 6.8. Whilst the procedure for authorising a benefit to Trustees is also subject to a statutory framework under the Companies Act 2006, which is not applicable to Members, the Department nonetheless recommends that, in order to aid transparency and ensure good financial governance, this process is followed.

indemnity arrangement that would be rendered void by any provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law.

6.4 A public company, which has shares listed on a recognised stock exchange and of which any one Trustee holds no more than 1% of the issued capital of that company, may receive fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Academy Trust.

Trustees' reasonable expenses and restrictions on benefits and payments

6.5 A Trustee may at the discretion of the Trustees be reimbursed from the property of the Academy Trust for reasonable expenses properly incurred by them when acting on behalf of the Academy Trust, but excluding expenses in connection with foreign travel.

6.6 No Trustee may:

a. buy any goods or services from the Academy Trust;

b. sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the Academy Trust;

c. be employed by, or receive any remuneration from the Academy Trust (other than the Chief Executive Officer to the extent they are a Trustee whose employment and/or remuneration is subject to the procedure and conditions in Article 6.8);

d. or receive any other financial benefit from the Academy Trust;

unless:

e. the payment is permitted by Article 6.7 and the Trustees follow the procedure and observe the conditions set out in Article 6.8; or

f. the Trustees obtain the prior written approval of the Charity Commission and fully comply with any procedures it prescribes.

6.7 Subject to Article 6.8, a Trustee may:

a. receive a benefit from the Academy Trust in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Academy Trust;

b. be employed by the Academy Trust or enter into a contract for the supply of

goods or services to the Academy Trust, other than for acting as a Trustee;

c. receive interest on money lent to the Academy Trust at a reasonable and proper rate not exceeding 2% per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the Trustees, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher; and

d. receive rent for premises let by the Trustee to the Academy Trust if the amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease are reasonable and proper.

6.8 The Academy Trust and its Trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by Article 6.7 if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

a. the remuneration or other sums paid to the Trustee does not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances;

b. the Trustee is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of:

i. their employment, remuneration, or any matter concerning the contract, payment or benefit; or

ii. their performance in the employment, or their performance of the contract; or

iii. any proposal to enter into any other contract or arrangement with them or to confer any benefit upon them that would be permitted under Article 6.7; or

iv. any other matter relating to a payment or the conferring of any benefit permitted by Article 6.7;

c. the Trustee does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Trustees is present at the meeting;

d. save in relation to employing or contracting with the Chief Executive Officer (to the extent they are a Trustee), the other Trustees are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Academy Trust to employ or to contract with that Trustee rather than with someone who is not a Trustee. In reaching that decision the Trustees must balance the advantage of employing a Trustee against the disadvantages of doing so (especially the loss of the Trustee's

services as a result of dealing with the Trustee's conflict of interest);

e. the reason for their decision is recorded by the Trustees in the minute book; and

f. a majority of the Trustees then in office have received no such payments or benefit.

6.8A The provision in Article 6.6(c) that no Trustee may be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Academy Trust (other than the Chief Executive Officer to the extent they are a Trustee) does not apply to an employee of the Academy Trust who is subsequently elected or appointed as a Trustee save that this Article shall only allow such a Trustee to receive remuneration or benefit from the Academy Trust in their capacity as an employee of the Academy Trust and provided that the procedure as set out in Articles 6.8(b) and 6.8(c) is followed.

6.9 In Articles 6.2-6.4 and 6.6-6.8A:

a. "Academy Trust" shall include any company in which the Academy Trust:

- holds more than 50% of the shares; or
- controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
- has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;

b. "Trustee" shall include any child, stepchild, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister or spouse of the Trustee or any person living with the Trustee as their partner;

c. the employment or remuneration of a Trustee includes the engagement or remuneration of any firm or company in which the Trustee is:

i. a partner;

ii. an employee;

iii. a consultant;

iv. a director;

v. a member; or

vi. a shareholder, unless the shares of the company are that of a public company which are listed on a recognised stock exchange and the Trustee holds less than 1% of the issued capital.

Liability of Academy Trust Members

7. The liability of the Members of the Academy Trust is limited.

8. Every Member of the Academy Trust undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Academy Trust's assets if it should be wound up while they are a Member or within one year after they cease to be a Member, for payment of the Academy Trust's debts and liabilities before they cease to be a Member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

Arrangements for Academy Trust property on closure of trust

9. If the Academy Trust is wound up or dissolved and after all its debts and liabilities (including any under section 2 of the Academies Act 2010) have been satisfied there remains any property it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Academy Trust (except for a Member which is itself a charity fulfilling the criteria set out below), but shall be given or transferred to some other charity or charities having objects similar to the Objects which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Academy Trust by Article 6 above, chosen by the Members of the Academy Trust at or before the time of dissolution and if that cannot be done then to some other charitable object.

10. Not used.

Restrictions on alterations to articles to protect charitable company status

11. No alteration or addition shall be made to or in the provisions of the Articles which would have the effect: (a) that the Academy Trust would cease to be a company to which section 60 of the Companies Act 2006 applies; or (b) that the Academy Trust would cease to be a charity.

Members

12. The Members of the Academy Trust[5] shall comprise:

    a. the signatories to the Memorandum; and

    b. any person appointed under Article 15A,

provided that at any time the minimum number of Members shall not be less than three.

12A. An employee of the Academy Trust cannot be a Member of the Academy Trust.

12B. There must be a majority of Members who are not also Trustees.

Rights to remove Members

13. Each person entitled to appoint Members in Article 12 shall have the right from time to time by written notice delivered to the Office to remove any Member appointed by them and to appoint a replacement Member to fill a vacancy whether resulting from such removal or otherwise.

14. If any of the persons entitled to appoint Members in Article 12:

    a. in the case of an individual, die or become legally incapacitated;

    b. in the case of a corporate entity, cease to exist and are not replaced by a successor institution;

    c. becomes insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally; or

    d. ceases to themselves be a Member,

    their right to appoint Members under these Articles shall vest in the remaining Members.

[5] There must be at least three signatories to the Memorandum of Association. The Department's strong preference, wherever possible, is for academy trusts to have at least five members. Having more members increases the range of perspectives represented and reduces the risk of concentrating power. It also ensures that Members can take decisions via special resolution (75% of members agree) without requiring unanimity, while minimising circumstances in which a split membership prevents decisions being taken by ordinary resolution (at least 51% of the Members are in favour).

Disqualification and termination of membership

15. A Member shall cease to be a Member if:

a. that Member (which is an individual) dies or becomes incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs;

b. that Member has been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been seized from their possession for the benefit of their creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced, or if they are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order;

c. that Member is a corporate entity and:

i. ceases to exist;

ii. a resolution or order is made for the Member to be wound up or to enter into administration;

iii. enters into any arrangement or composition with its creditors; or

iv. becomes insolvent;

d. that Member has been convicted of a Serious Criminal Offence;

e. that Member has not provided to the Chair a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997 or if such a certificate discloses information which the Chair considers would make that Member unsuitable for their role. If a dispute arises as to whether the Member should be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final;

f. that Member refuses to consent to any checks required by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement or otherwise;

g. that Member is found to be unsuitable to be a Member by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement;

h. that Member is employed by the Academy Trust;

i. that Member would be disqualified from being a Trustee of this Academy

Trust for any other reason, regardless of whether they are also a Trustee.

15AA. Where, by virtue of these Articles a person becomes disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold office as a Member; and they are, or are proposed, to become such a Member, they shall upon becoming so disqualified give written notice of that fact to the Governance Professional.

Appointing and removing Members

15A. The Members may agree by passing a special resolution to appoint such additional Members as they think fit.

16. In addition to Article 13, the Members may agree by passing a special resolution to remove any Member(s). The Member whose proposed removal is the subject of the resolution shall not be entitled to vote on that resolution.

Members and the charitable objects

16A. In exercising their rights under these Articles and the Companies Act 2006, the Members shall not do anything or take any action which would cause the Academy Trust to contravene its Objects, and shall act in a way which they decide, in good faith, will be most likely to further the Objects of the Academy Trust.

Consent to become a Member

17. Every person nominated to be a Member of the Academy Trust shall sign a written consent to become a Member and sign the register of Members on becoming a Member.

Member resignation

18. Any Member may resign provided that after such resignation the number of Members is not less than three. A Member shall cease to be one immediately on the receipt by the Academy Trust of a notice in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to remove them under Articles 13 or 16 provided that no such notice shall take effect when the number of Members is less than three unless it contains or is accompanied by the appointment of a replacement Member.

General Meetings

Annual General Meeting

19. The Academy Trust shall hold an Annual General Meeting each Academy Financial Year in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it; and not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting of the Academy Trust and that of the next. Provided that so long as the Academy Trust holds its first Annual General Meeting within eighteen months of its incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation or the following year. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Trustees shall appoint. All meetings other than the Annual General Meetings shall be called General Meetings.

Arrangements for General Meetings

20. The Trustees may call General Meetings and, on the requisition of Members pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, shall forthwith proceed to convene a General Meeting in accordance with that Act. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Trustees to call a General Meeting, any Trustee or any Member of the Academy Trust may call a General Meeting.

Notice of General Meetings

21. General meetings shall be called by at least fourteen clear days' notice but may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of Members having a right to attend and vote and together representing not less than 90% of the total voting rights at that meeting.

21A. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted and, in the case of an Annual General Meeting, shall specify the meeting as such. The notice shall also state that the Member is entitled to appoint a proxy. The notice shall be given to all the Members, to the Trustees and auditors.

22. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

Proceedings at General Meetings

23. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum is a majority of Members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted.

23A. A person may attend a General Meeting by telephone or by any suitable electronic means by which all those participating in the meeting are able to communicate with all other participants.

23B. A person so participating by telephone or other communication shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be counted in a quorum and entitled to vote. A meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no group which is larger than any other group, where the chair of the meeting is located at that time.

24. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Trustees may determine.

25. The Members present and entitled to vote at the meeting shall elect by ordinary resolution one of their number to be the chair and such election shall be binding on all Members and Trustees present at the meeting.

26. Not used.

27. A Trustee shall, notwithstanding that they are not a Member, be entitled to attend and speak at any General Meeting or Annual General Meeting.

28. The chair may, with the consent of a majority of the Members at a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time, date and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.

29. A resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands

unless before, or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, a poll may be demanded:

a. by the chair; or

b. by at least two Members having the right to vote at the meeting; or

c. by a Member or Members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at the meeting.

30. Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chair that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

31. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the chair. The withdrawal of a demand for a poll shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand for the poll was made.

32. A poll shall be taken as the chair directs and they may appoint scrutineers (who need not be Members) and fix a time, date and place for declaring the results. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

33. A poll demanded on the election of the chair or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time, date and place as the chair directs not being more than thirty days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll is demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.

34. No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time, date and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In other cases at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time, date and place at which the poll is to be taken.

35. A resolution in writing, which includes a resolution in electronic form, agreed by such number of Members as required if it had been proposed at a General Meeting shall be as effectual as if it had been passed at a General Meeting duly convened and held provided that a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every Member. The resolution may consist of several instruments in the like form each agreed by one or more Members.

Votes of Members

36. On the show of hands every Member present in person shall have one vote. On a poll every Member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote.

37. Not used.

38. No Member shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all moneys then payable by them to the Academy Trust have been paid.

39. No objections shall be raised to the qualification of any person to vote at any General Meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chair whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

Voting by proxy

40. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the appointer and shall be in the following form (or in a form as near thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Trustees may approve):

> "I/We, …….., of ……, being a Member/Members of the above named Academy Trust, hereby appoint …… of ……, or in their absence, …….. of ……. as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/ general meeting of the Academy Trust to be held on …..20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof.
>
> Signed on ….. 20[ ]"

41. Where it is desired to afford Members an opportunity of instructing the proxy how they shall act the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form (or in a form

as near thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Trustees may approve):

> "I/We, ……., of ……., being a Member/Members of the above named Academy Trust, hereby appoint …. of ……., or in their absence, ….. of ……, as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/ general meeting of the Academy Trust, to be held on …. 20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof.
>
> This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:
>
> Resolution No. 1 *for * against
>
> Resolution No. 2 *for * against.
>
> - Strike out whichever is not desired.
>
> Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as they think fit or abstain from voting.
>
> Signed on 20[ ]"

42. The instrument appointing a proxy and any authority under which it is signed or a copy of such authority certified by a notary or in some other way approved by the Trustees may:

a. be deposited at the Office or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Academy Trust in relation to the meeting not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote; or

b. in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, be deposited as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll; or

c. where the poll is not taken forthwith but is taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chair or to the Governance Professional or to any Trustee,

and an instrument of proxy which is not deposited or delivered in a manner so permitted shall be invalid.

43. A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by the duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll unless notice of the determination was received by the Academy Trust at the Office or at such other place at which the instrument of proxy was duly deposited before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote given or the poll demanded or (or in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll.

44. Any organisation which is a Member of the Academy Trust may by resolution of its board of directors or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Academy Trust, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation which they represent as that organisation could exercise if it were an individual Member of the Academy Trust.

Trustees

45. The number of Trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

46. Subject to Articles 48-49 and 53, the Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees:

a. up to 10 Trustees, appointed under Article 50; and

b. a minimum of two Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-56B in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established under Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least two Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to Article 101A.

47. The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Trustee appointed under Article 58.

48. The first Trustees shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006.

49. Future Trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Trustee to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

Appointment of Trustees

50. The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 10 Trustees.

50A. Not used.

50B. The total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act as Trustee under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.[6]

51. Not used.

52. Not used.

Parent Trustees

53. In circumstances where the Trustees have not appointed Local Governing Bodies in respect of the Academies as envisaged in Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least two Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to Article 101A there shall be a minimum of two Parent Trustees and otherwise such number as the Members shall decide who shall be appointed or elected in accordance with Articles 54 - 56.

Election of Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors

54. Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors shall be elected or, if the number of Parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed (in accordance with the terms of reference determined by the Trustees from time to time). The elected or appointed Parent Trustees must be a Parent of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies at the time when they are elected or appointed. The elected (or, if the number of Parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed) Parent Local Governors of the Local Governing Body must be a Parent of a

[6] Whilst the members can decide whether to appoint the trust's CEO/Principal as a trustee, the Department's strong preference is for no other employees to serve as trustees in order to retain clear lines of accountability through the trust's single executive leader.

registered pupil at one or more of the Academies overseen by the Local Governing Body at the time when they are elected or appointed.

54AA In the case of 16-19 Academies, references to ‘a Parent of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies’ in Article 54 shall be deemed to be references to ‘a Parent of a registered student at that 16-19 Academy’ or, in circumstances where no Parent of a registered student at the 16-19 Academy is willing or able to act as a Parent Trustee or a Parent Local Governor, references to ‘a Parent of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies’ shall be deemed to be references to ‘a Parent of a child of above compulsory school age but not above the age of 19.

54A. The number of Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors required shall be made up by Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors appointed by the Trustees if the number of Parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies.

55. The Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of the Parent Trustees or Parent Local Governors, including term dates and any question of whether a person is a Parent of a registered pupil at one of the Academies. Any election of the Parent Trustees or Parent Local Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. For the purposes of any election of Parent Local Governors, any Parent of a registered pupil at the Academies overseen by the Local Governing Body shall be eligible to vote.

56. In appointing a Parent Trustee or Parent Local Governor the Trustees shall appoint a person who is the Parent of a registered pupil at an Academy as described in Articles 54 and 54AA; or where the Trustees are exercising their power to appoint a Parent Trustee or Parent Local Governor and it is not reasonably practical to appoint a Parent as described in Articles 54 and 54AA, then the Trustees may appoint a person who is the Parent of a child within the age range of at least one of the Academies or, in the case of an appointment to a Local Governing Body, the age range of at least one of the Academies overseen by that Local Governing Body.

Chief Executive Officer as Trustee

57. Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Trustee.[7]

Co-opted Trustees

58. The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees. A 'Co-opted Trustee' means a person who is appointed to be a Trustee by being Co-opted by Trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent they are a Trustee.

59 – 63. Not used.

Term of office

64. The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years, save that:

a. This time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex officio.

b. The term of office may be shorter than four years for any Trustee except for Parent Trustees, if the Members (or in the case of a Co-opted Trustee, the Trustees) determine this at the time of appointment of such Trustee.

Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Resignation and removal

65. A Trustee may resign their office by notice to the Academy Trust (but only if at least three Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

[7] Members should carefully consider the benefits and risks of appointing the CEO/Principal as a trustee, seeking evidence to support their decisions. Any CEO/Principal serving as trustee should be excluded from discussions about salary and performance and others where there may be a conflict of interest. In accordance with their charitable duties, trustees must exercise independent judgement at all times, challenge proposals and seek evidence from a range of sources to support robust decision-making.

66. A Trustee may be removed by the person or persons who appointed or elected them, or otherwise by ordinary resolution of the Members in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

67. Either the Trustee resigning, or those removing the Trustee shall give written notice thereof to the Governance Professional.

Disqualification of Trustees

68. A Trustee must be aged 18 or over at the date of election or appointment. No current pupil [or current student] [of any of the Academies] / [the Academy] shall be a Trustee.

69. A Trustee shall cease to hold office if they become incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering their own affairs.

70. A Trustee shall cease to hold office if they are absent without the permission of the Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Trustees resolve that the Trustee's office be vacated.

71. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee if:

a. they have been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been seized from their possession for the benefit of their creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or

b. they are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.

72. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee at any time when they are subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).

73. A Trustee shall cease to hold office if they cease to be a Trustee by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006, or are disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

74. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee if they have been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which they were responsible or to which they were privy, or which their conduct contributed to or facilitated.

75. Not used.

76. Not used.

77. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee where they have, at any time, been convicted of a Serious Criminal Offence.

78. After the first Academy has opened, a person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee if that person does not provide the Chair with a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997 or if such a certificate discloses information which the Chair considers would make that person unsuitable for their role. If a dispute arises as to whether a person shall be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final.

78A A person (including the Chair) shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Trustee if that person:

a. refuses to consent to any checks required by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 or otherwise; or

b. is found to be unsuitable to be a Trustee by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement or the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

79. Where, by virtue of these Articles a person becomes disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold office as a Trustee; and they are, or are proposed, to become such a Trustee, they shall upon becoming so disqualified give written notice of that fact to the Governance Professional.

Disqualification of those on committees including Local Governing Bodies

80. Articles 68 to 74, Articles 77 to 78, Article 79 and Articles 97 to 98 also apply to any member of any committee or delegate of the Trustees including a Local Governing Body who is not a Trustee.

Governance Professional to the Trustees

81. The Trustees must appoint a Governance Professional. The Governance Professional shall be appointed by the Trustees for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any Governance Professional so appointed may be removed by them. The Governance Professional shall not be a Trustee, or the Chief Executive Officer or a Principal. Notwithstanding this Article, the Trustees may, where the Governance Professional fails to attend a meeting of theirs, appoint any one of their number or any other person to act as Governance Professional for the purposes of that meeting. The Governance Professional may, but need not be, the appointed company secretary of the Academy Trust.

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trustees

82. The Trustees shall each school year elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among their number. A Trustee who is employed by the Academy Trust shall not be eligible for election as Chair or Vice-Chair.

83. Subject to Article 84, the Chair or Vice-Chair shall hold office as such until a successor has been elected in accordance with Article 85.

84. The Chair or Vice-Chair may at any time resign their office by giving notice in writing to the Governance Professional. The Chair or Vice-Chair shall cease to hold office if they:

a. cease to be a Trustee;

b. are employed by the Academy Trust;

c. are removed from office in accordance with these Articles; or

d. in the case of the Vice-Chair, they are elected in accordance with these Articles to fill a vacancy in the office of Chair.

85. Where by reason of any of the matters referred to in Article 84, a vacancy arises in the office of Chair or Vice-Chair, the Trustees shall at their next meeting elect one of their number to fill that vacancy.

86. Where the Chair is absent from any meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

87-89. Not used.

90. The Trustees may remove the Chair or Vice-Chair from office in accordance with these Articles.

91. A resolution to remove the Chair or Vice-Chair from office which is passed at a meeting of the Trustees shall not have effect unless:

a. it is confirmed by a resolution passed at a second meeting of the Trustees held not less than fourteen days after the first meeting; and

b. the matter of the Chair's or Vice-Chair's removal from office is specified as an item of business on the agenda for each of those meetings.

92. Before the Trustees resolve at the relevant meeting on whether to confirm the resolution to remove the Chair or Vice-Chair from office, the Trustee or Trustees proposing their removal shall at that meeting state their reasons for doing so and the Chair or Vice-Chair shall be given an opportunity to make a statement in response.

Powers of the Trustees

93. Subject to provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the Academy Trust shall be managed by the Trustees who may exercise all the powers of the Academy Trust. No alteration of the Articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the Trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Trustees by the Articles and a meeting of Trustees at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the Trustees.

94. In addition to all powers hereby expressly conferred upon them and without detracting from the generality of their powers under the Articles the Trustees shall have

the following powers, namely:

a. to expend the funds of the Academy Trust in such manner as they shall consider most beneficial for the achievement of the Objects and to invest in the name of the Academy Trust such part of the funds as they may see fit and to direct the sale or transposition of any such investments and to expend the proceeds of any such sale in furtherance of the Objects; and

b. to enter into contracts on behalf of the Academy Trust.

95. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Trustees may consider any advice given by the Chief Executive Officer to the extent they are not a Trustee and any other executive officer.

96. Any bank account in which any money of the Academy Trust is deposited shall be operated by the Trustees in the name of the Academy Trust. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such an account shall be signed by at least two signatories authorised by the Trustees.

Conflicts of interest

97. Any Trustee who has or can have any direct or indirect duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest) which conflicts or may conflict with their duties as a Trustee shall disclose that fact to the Trustees as soon as they become aware of it. A Trustee must be absent from any discussions of the Trustees in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between their duty to act solely in the interests of the Academy Trust and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest).

98. For the purpose of Article 97, a Trustee has a Personal Financial Interest in the employment or remuneration of, or the provision of any other benefit to, that Trustee as permitted by and as defined by Articles 6.5-6.8A.

The minutes

99. The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Trustees shall be recorded and kept for the purpose by the person acting as Governance Professional for the purposes of the meeting; and shall be signed (subject to the approval of the Trustees) at the same or next subsequent meeting by the person acting as chair thereof.

Committees

100. Subject to these Articles, the Trustees:

a. may appoint committees to be known as Local Governing Bodies for each Academy (and the same Local Governing Body may be appointed for more than one Academy); and

b. may establish any other committee.

101. Subject to these Articles, the constitution, membership and proceedings of any committee shall be determined by the Trustees. The establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of any committee of the Trustees shall be reviewed at least once in every twelve months. The membership of any committee of the Trustees may include persons who are not Trustees, provided that (with the exception of the Local Governing Bodies) a majority of members of any such committee shall be Trustees. Except in the case of a Local Governing Body, no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of a committee of the Trustees unless the majority of members of the committee present are Trustees.

101A. The Trustees shall ensure that any Local Governing Body shall include at least two Parent Local Governors.

102. Not used.

103. Not used.

104. The functions, duties and proceedings of the Local Governing Bodies or committees shall be subject to regulations made by the Trustees from time to time. Local Governing Bodies may also be established solely for the purpose of fulfilling an advisory function to the board of Trustees.

Delegation

105. The Trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions (including the power to sub-delegate) to any Trustee, committee (including any Local Governing Body), the Chief Executive Officer or any other holder of an executive office. Any such delegation shall be made in writing and subject to any conditions the Trustees may impose, and may be revoked or altered.

105A. A Trustee, committee (including any Local Governing Body), the Chief Executive

Officer or any other holder of an executive office to whom a power or function of the Trustees is delegated under Article 105 may further sub-delegate those powers or functions (or any of them) to a further person. Where any power or function of the Trustees is sub-delegated by any person to whom it has been delegated, that person must inform the Trustees as soon as reasonably practicable which powers and functions have been further delegated and to whom, and any such sub-delegation shall be made subject to any conditions the Trustees may impose, and may be revoked or altered by the Trustees.

106. Where any power or function of the Trustees has been exercised by any committee (including any Local Governing Body), any Trustee, the Chief Executive Officer any other holder of an executive office, or a person to whom a power or function has been sub-delegated under Article 105A, that person or committee shall report to the Trustees in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise of that power or function at the meeting of the Trustees immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

Appointing and delegating to Chief Executive Officer and Principals

107. The Trustees shall appoint the Chief Executive Officer and the Principals of the Academies. The Trustees may delegate such powers and functions as they consider are required by the Chief Executive Officer and the Principals for the internal organisation, management and control of the Academies (including the implementation of all policies approved by the Trustees and for the direction of the teaching and curriculum at the Academies).

Meetings of the Trustees

Proceedings at Trustee meetings

108. Subject to these Articles, the Trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit.

109. The Trustees shall hold at least three meetings in every school year. Meetings of the Trustees shall be convened by the Governance Professional. In exercising the functions under this Article the Governance Professional shall comply with any direction:

a. given by the Trustees; or

b. given by the Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair, so far as such direction is not inconsistent with any direction given as mentioned in (a).

110. Any three Trustees may, by notice in writing given to the Governance Professional, requisition a meeting of the Trustees; and it shall be the duty of the Governance Professional to convene such a meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable.

111. Each Trustee shall be given at least seven clear days before the date of a meeting:

a. notice in writing thereof by the Governance Professional, and sent to each Trustee at the address provided by each Trustee from time to time; and

b. a copy of the agenda for the meeting,

provided that where the Chair or, in their absence, the Vice-Chair, so determines on the ground that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the written notice of a meeting, and the copy of the agenda thereof are given within such shorter period as they direct.

112. The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda thereof.

113. A resolution to rescind or vary a resolution carried at a previous meeting of the Trustees shall not be proposed at a meeting of the Trustees unless the consideration of the rescission or variation of the previous resolution is a specific item of business on the agenda for that meeting.

114. A meeting of the Trustees shall be terminated forthwith if:

a. the Trustees so resolve; or

b. the number of Trustees present ceases to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Trustees in accordance with Article 117, subject to Article 119.

115. Where in accordance with Article 114 a meeting is not held or is terminated before all the matters specified as items of business on the agenda for the meeting have been disposed of, a further meeting shall be convened by the Governance Professional as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within seven days of the date on which the meeting was originally to be held or was so terminated.

116. Where the Trustees resolve in accordance with Article 114 to adjourn a meeting before all the items of business on the agenda have been disposed of, the Trustees shall before doing so determine the time and date at which a further meeting is to be held for the purposes of completing the consideration of those items, and they shall direct the Governance Professional to convene a meeting accordingly.

Quorum for Trustee meetings

117. Subject to Article 119, the quorum for a meeting of the Trustees, and any vote on any matter thereat, shall be any three Trustees, or where greater, any one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the total number of Trustees holding office at the date of the meeting, who are in each case present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matters to be resolved.

118. The Trustees may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the numbers of Trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Trustees may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a General Meeting.

119. The quorum for the purposes of:

a. any vote on the removal of a Trustee in accordance with Article 66; and

b. any vote on the removal of the Chair of the Trustees in accordance with Article 90,

shall be any two-thirds (rounded up to a whole number) of the persons who are at the time Trustees present at the meeting and entitled to vote on those respective matters.

Voting at Trustee meetings

120. Subject to these Articles, every question to be decided at a meeting of the Trustees shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Trustees present and voting on the question. Every Trustee shall have one vote.

121. Subject to Articles 117-119, where there is an equal division of votes, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.

122. The proceedings of the Trustees shall not be invalidated by:

a. any vacancy among their number; or

b. any defect in the election, appointment or nomination of any Trustee.

123. A resolution in writing, which includes a resolution in electronic form, signed by all the Trustees entitled to receive notice of and vote at a meeting of Trustees or of a committee of Trustees, shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of Trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of Trustees duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed or authenticated by one or more of the Trustees.

Making the minutes of Trustee meetings available

124. Subject to Article 125, the Trustees shall ensure that a copy of:

a. the agenda for every meeting of the Trustees;

b. the draft minutes of every such meeting, if they have been approved by the person acting as chair of that meeting;

c. the signed minutes of every such meeting; and

d. any report, document or other paper considered at any such meeting,

are, as soon as is reasonably practicable, made available at every Academy to persons wishing to inspect them.

125. There may be excluded from any item required to be made available in pursuance of Article 124, any material relating to:

a. a named teacher or other person employed, or proposed to be employed, at any Academy;

b. a named pupil or named student at, or candidate for admission or referral to, any Academy; and

c. any matter which, by reason of its nature, the Trustees are satisfied should remain confidential.

Participation at meetings

126. Any Trustee shall be able to participate in meetings of the Trustees by telephone or by any suitable electronic means agreed by the Trustees and by which all those participating in the meeting are able to communicate with all other participants.

126A. A person so participating by telephone or other communication shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be counted in a quorum and entitled to vote. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no group which is larger than any other group, where the chair of the meeting is located at that time.

Patrons and honorary officers

127. The Trustees may from time to time appoint any person whether or not a Member of the Academy Trust to be a patron of the Academy Trust or to hold any honorary office and may determine for what period they are to hold such office.

The seal

128. The seal, if any, shall only be used by the authority of the Trustees or of a committee of Trustees authorised by the Trustees. The Trustees may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Trustee and by the Governance Professional or by a second Trustee.

Accounts

129. Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the relevant statement of recommended practice published by the Charity Commission from time to time (the "**Statement of Recommended Practice**") as if the Academy Trust was a non-exempt charity, and Parts 15 and 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and the Academy Trust shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

Annual Report

130. The Trustees shall prepare the Annual Report in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Academy Trust was a non-exempt charity and shall file this with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each

Academy Financial Year.

Confirmation statement

131. The Trustees shall comply with their obligations under Part 24 of the Companies Act 2006 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation and delivery of a confirmation statement to the Registrar of Companies.

Notices

132. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles (other than a notice calling a meeting of the Trustees) shall be in writing, which includes being given using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the notice. In these Articles, “Address” in relation to electronic communications, includes a number or address used for the purposes of such communications.

133. A notice may be given by the Academy Trust to a Member either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Member at their registered address or by leaving it at that address or by giving it using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified to the Academy Trust by the Member. A Member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Academy Trust an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to them, or an address to which notices may be sent using electronic communications, shall be entitled to have notices given to them at that address, but otherwise no such Member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Academy Trust.

134. A Member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Academy Trust shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where necessary, of the purposes for which it was called.

135. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was sent.

Indemnity

136. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 6.3, every Trustee or other officer or auditor of the Academy Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

Rules

137. The Trustees may make such rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Academy Trust including, but not limited to, how they take decisions, including the procedure at meetings, and the means of recording and communicating such rules to Trustees and Members, insofar as such rules are not already regulated by the Articles.

138. The Academy Trust in general meetings shall have power to alter, add or to repeal the rules or bye laws. No rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in the Articles.

Avoiding influenced company status

139. Notwithstanding the number of Members from time to time, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by Local Authority Associated Persons shall never exceed 19.9% of the total number of votes exercisable by Members in general meeting and the votes of the other Members having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.

140. No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person may be appointed or elected as a Trustee if, once the appointment or election had taken effect, the number of Trustees who are Local Authority Associated Persons would represent 20% or more of the total number of Trustees. Upon any resolution put to the Trustees, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by any Trustees who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall represent a maximum of 19.9% of the total number of votes cast by the Trustees on such a resolution and the votes of the other Trustees having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.

141. No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person is eligible to be appointed or elected to the office of Trustee unless their appointment or election to such office is authorised by the local authority to which they are associated.

142. If at the time of either their becoming a Member of the Academy Trust or their first appointment or election to office as a Trustee any Member or Trustee was not a Local Authority Associated Person but later becomes so during their membership or tenure as a Trustee they shall be deemed to have immediately resigned their membership and/or resigned from their office as a Trustee as the case may be.

143. If at any time the number of Trustees or Members who are also Local Authority Associated Persons would (but for Articles 139 to 142 inclusive) represent 20% or more of the total number of Trustees or Members (as the case may be) then a sufficient number of the Trustees or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned as Trustees or Members (as the case may be) immediately before the occurrence of such an event to ensure that at all times the number of such Trustees or Members (as the case may be) is never equal to or greater than 20% of the total number of Trustees or Members (as the case may be). Trustees or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned in order of their appointment or election date the most recently appointed or elected resigning first.

144. The Members will each notify the Academy Trust and each other if at any time they believe that the Academy Trust or any of its subsidiaries has become subject to the influence of a local authority (as described in section 69 of the Local Government and Housing Act) 1989.