

## **OGAT Trust Governance Structure**

Set out below is the structure of Outwood Grange Academies Trust's (OGAT) governance arrangements. This outlines the functions and responsibilities of each tier of governance within the organisation and how they interact with each other to monitor, challenge and support statutory compliance and raising standards.

In the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) provides detailed guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Members, Trustees and Governors. The latest AFH is available on the ESFA website.

OGAT is a charitable company limited by guarantee, as such, the liability of the members is set at £10 in the Trust's Articles of Association.

The Trust has a number of layers of governance:

### **1) The Members who operate at a strategic level with ultimate control over the direction of the Trust**

The functions of the Members include:

- Overseeing the achievement of the objectives of the Trust.
- Taking part in Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings.
- Appointing trustees.
- Signing off the company's financial accounts and annual report.
- Power to amend the Articles of Association (subject to approval by the DfE) and, ultimately, to remove trustees.

Overall, Members usually have much more limited practical involvement in the management of the Trust than the trustees.

### **2) The Trustees have responsibility for day-to-day management and operation of the Trust on behalf of the Members and their key responsibilities are to:**

OGAT is governed by non-executive directors constituted under a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. This Board of Directors (Board) is responsible for ensuring that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. The Board exercises its powers and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic leadership role in the running of the academies. This affords greater opportunities for collaboration not only with regards to teaching and learning but also in terms of the management of each Academy, including the procurement of goods and services.

The Board is also governed by the terms of any Funding Agreements that are in place and the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH).

- Ensure the quality of educational provision
- Challenge and monitor the performance of the Trust
- Manage the Academy Trust's finances and property/safety
- Manage the staff
- Exercise reasonable skill and care in carrying out their duties

- Ensure that the Trust complies with charity and company law
- Operate the Trust and its academies in accordance with the Funding Agreement that has been signed with the Secretary of State

### **3) The Academy Council Governors**

Each academy, or a group of academies across a close geographical area, has local governance arrangements in the form of an Academy Council (AC). The AC is a sub-committee of the Board. The role of the AC is to carry the Trust's vision, values, policies and priorities forward, provide internal assurance and, in addition, to develop the local community and employer links.

The AC are made up of governors who are expected to question, challenge and support the academy's leadership.

The governors are part of the leadership of the academy. It is their role to:

- ensure that the academy is being run effectively
- hold the academy to account
- provide a link between the academy, the trust and the local community
- develop their own partnerships and collaborations

### **4) The Executive Board of the Trust**

The Executive Board is led by the Chief Executive who is appointed by the Members/Trustees. The Chief Executive and Trustees in turn appoint a group of individuals to provide support in the leadership of the Trust's day-to-day activities including; school improvement, finance and human resources.

The Executive Board is a sub-committee of the Board and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Its purpose is to manage generally the business of the Trust within agreed financial limits set by the Board from time to time. Subject to these financial limits, the Executive Board has primary authority for the day to day management of the Trust's operations save for those matters which are reserved to the Board or its committees.

The Executive Board is the overall decision-making body for performance and delivery, under delegated authority from the Board.

The Chief Executive is also designated as the Accounting Officer for the purposes of the Trusts Funding Agreement with the Funding Agreement. This designation confers legal responsibility for financial and administrative matters.

The Executive Board meets regularly and co-ordinates the policies and activities of the Trust in conjunction with the Trustees. They attend Trustee Board meetings and are responsible for interpreting and implementing the direction and decisions of the Board.

## 5) The Executive Team of the Trust

The Executive Team is, again, led by the Chief Executive. The main purpose of the Executive Team is to monitor, challenge and improve academy performance. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Academic performance of all students at every key stage;
- The implementation and consistency of the 7-strand transformation model;
- Curriculum and staffing management; and
- Financial and resource allocation.

The Executive Team is responsible for the day to day monitoring of the performance of the academies and for the educational outcomes of students, under delegated authority from the Board.

## 6) Individual Academy Leadership

Individual academies are led by a Principal, who is the person responsible for the day-to-day running of the academy.

The Principal is supported by a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which is made up of senior members of staff. Through their wide range of expertise and experience, the SLT work together to ensure that every student enjoys their time at the academy and reaches their full potential.

## OGAT Governance Structure Diagram

