

## Church Schools Effectiveness [Committee] [Group]

*Note: If there is to be a majority of Directors/Trustees on the membership it can be a Committee, otherwise it will need to be a Group (due to the requirements of your Articles of Association). The remit can be combined with that of a Committee looking at other areas, if desirable, as long as the areas outlined below receive sufficient attention.*

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Membership

##### **[If a Committee]**

- **Members** - appointed by the Directors/Trustees, to include:
  - DYET appointed Director/Trustee plus [x] other Directors/Trustees
- **Attendance**
  - [x] Foundation Local Governors from across the CE schools
  - [x] headteachers/principals from across the CE schools
  - Other attendees as required.

##### **[If a Group]**

- **Members** - appointed by the Directors/Trustees, to include:
  - DYET appointed Director/Trustee plus [x] other Directors/Trustees
  - [x] Foundation Local Governors from across the CE schools
  - [x] headteachers/principals from across the CE schools
- **Attendance**
  - Other attendees as required.

#### Proceedings

- **Chair** – A Director/Trustee appointed by the [Group][Committee]
- **Clerk** – to be provided by Board of Directors/Trustees
- **Frequency of meetings** - at least twice a year. Meeting at least two weeks in advance of the Board of Directors/Trustees meetings the [Group][Committee] will report to
- **Notice and papers** – notice of at least 14 days, papers circulated at least 7 days before meeting
- **Required attendance/quorum** – At least 2 Directors/Trustees
- **Minutes** within 7 days and provided to Board of Directors/Trustees

#### Purpose and Role

To provide oversight and assurance of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of CE schools in the multi academy trust (MAT) as Church schools, providing support and advice where appropriate.

This shall include:

1. **Providing support and advice to Church of England (CE) schools in the MAT on their CE foundation, including by:**
  - a. Encouraging CE schools to reflect on and develop their **distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church school** in light of their **theologically rooted Christian vision**;
  - b. Encouraging and supporting schools to **draw on and develop best practice relating to church school distinctiveness and effectiveness** in the MAT and beyond;
  - c. Championing high quality, distinctive **Collective Worship** across CE schools;
  - d. Promoting high quality **Religious Education** in accordance with the Statement of Entitlement;
  - e. Receiving and disseminating Diocesan and related **guidance** and championing **training** for Members, Directors/Trustees, Local Governors and staff on CE school distinctiveness and effectiveness and CE school leadership and governance;

2. **Providing oversight and assurance of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of CE schools as Church schools, including by:**
- a. Monitoring and evaluating the progress of each Church school, including by:
    - Considering evidence of how the school, through its theologically rooted Christian vision, is living up to its Church school foundation, enabling people to flourish (including in the context of the SIAMS Inspection Questions);
    - Receiving and scrutinising individual school **SIAMS Self Evaluation/SIAMS summary Self Evaluation**<sup>1</sup> on a rotational basis;
  - b. Receiving reports from the CE schools in relation to, and using that information to monitor:
    - Their compliance with the legal requirements and the Church of England Education Office's guidance for **Collective Worship**;
    - Their compliance with the legal requirements for **Religious Education**, achievement in RE and the extent to which the Statement of Entitlement is being followed;
    - **Staff training and development** related to CE school aspects and the extent to which faith aspects are being taken into account in relevant staffing appointments;
    - **Local Governing Body** composition, training and development, accountability structures and Foundation Local Governor vacancies;
    - Review of **admissions policies** in accordance with Diocesan guidance;
    - Engagement with and support provided by the **Diocese**;
    - Compliance with the schools' **trust deeds and documentary framework**;
  - c. Scrutinising and advising on **school/MAT policies** which relate to the **Christian vision and foundation** of the schools, including curriculum; RE; Collective Worship; SMSC and spiritual development; behaviour/anti-bullying; relationships and sex education, equality and inclusion; SEND; mental health and wellbeing; assessment and marking.
  - d. Scrutinising the **Scheme(s) of Delegation** for CE schools to ensure that the CE foundation is appropriately reflected in accordance with Diocesan guidance;
  - e. Ensuring completion and collection of **ethos undertakings** from Members, Directors/Trustees and Local Governors and their provision to the Diocese as required;
  - f. Providing the Board of Directors/Trustees with an **overview** of each Church school's performance as a Church school, highlighting any risks that the school is not living up to its Christian foundation in any area and advising the Board if any action should be taken as a result of this;
  - g. Advising the Board of Directors/Trustees on completion of **reports to Members** relating to CE school distinctiveness and effectiveness and supporting them in connection with their role in **SIAMS inspections**.

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<sup>1</sup> Although not a statutory requirement, schools will generally have a self-evaluation (SEF). A summary SEF, of perhaps two pages, can be a useful "way in" to the full SEF for:

- Local Governors, especially newer local governors/those who are not involved in the detailed oversight.
- Trust Boards, to aid their understanding of where the school is and to help them engage more meaningfully in their oversight across several schools.