



Transforming Lives

EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Local Governing Board (LGB) Terms of Reference

September 2025

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1 – The TLET Way

Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET/The Trust) is a family of academies. Every TLET policy is rooted in and reflects our ambitions for pupils, students and wider stakeholders alike. Our ambitions are to **Nurture Potential, Inspire Community and Deliver Excellence**.

OUR AMBITIONS -

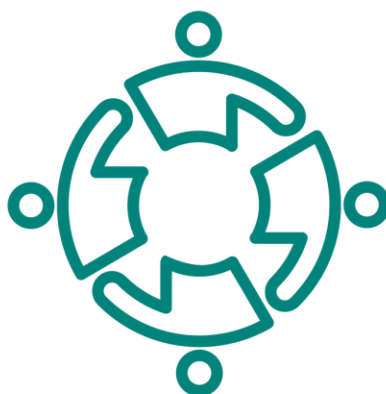
As a Trust family, our shared ambitions drive everything we do, we call this ‘The TLET Way’.

Through the transformative values of courage, kindness and loyalty, together we:



NURTURE POTENTIAL

We flourish in the places we create together.



INSPIRE COMMUNITY

We champion each other to make a difference.



DELIVER EXCELLENCE

We strive to achieve our best.



2. Introduction

The Terms of Reference as set out below are general in content and form part of a suite of documents adopted by the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET) as the governance framework for the oversight and management of TLET's community of academies.

As such, these Terms of Reference must be read in conjunction with the Trust's:

- System of Governance and Working Practices
- Scheme of Delegated Authority (SoDA)
- Link Trustee Terms of Reference
- Code of Business Conduct

TLET has the charitable purpose of advancing education for the public benefit, and to this aim, the Trust Board provides:

- **Strategic leadership of the Trust:** defining the Trust's vision for high quality and inclusive education, and fostering the Trust's culture
- **Accountability and assurance:** overseeing operations and performance of the Trust, including the provision of education, pupil welfare, use of funding, financial performance and safe and well-maintained estates.
- **Engagement:** overseeing relationships with stakeholders, including the involvement of parents, academies and communities in decision-making.

The Trust Board is supported by Local Governing Boards (LGB) which are subcommittees of the Trust Board. LGB provide connections with a school and local communities, acting as the eyes and ears of the Trust Board.

The authority and powers of the LGB cascade from the Trust Board as set out in the Scheme of Delegated Authority (SoDA), which explains the powers retained by the Trust Board and the powers delegated to the CEO, the LGB, and the Academy Principals. For the avoidance of doubt, where a power is not expressly delegated to the CEO, LGB, or Academy Principals, it will be deemed to have been retained by the Trust Board.

3. Purpose

For schools, a sense of place matters: the history, geography, social and economic context underpins the views and experiences of pupils, staff and parents. A well-functioning local tier of governance provides trustees with insight into the unique challenges and opportunities faced by their communities. (NGA, May 2023)

The purpose of the LGB, as a sub-committee of the Trust Board, is to support the effective management and continuous improvement of the Academy. It will do this by:

- Supporting and challenging Academy leadership in the delivery of high quality, inclusive education
- Providing the Trust's independent 'eyes and ears' assessment of day-to-day activities by reporting progress, risks, and issues to the Trust Board.

Promoting a spirit of openness and transparency, and through a balance of support and challenge, LGB are the 'critical friends' of the Academy.

4. Scope and Remit

LGB provide independent support, scrutiny, challenge, and proactive risk assessment to promote the performance of our Academies. The National Governance Association (NGA) refers to local governance having four key responsibilities, their 4Ss – *standards, stakeholders, safeguarding and SEND* – we have added a fifth, *self-assessment*:

- **Standards – evidence-based assurance**

- Quality of Education – overseeing the academy’s curriculum intent, implementation, and impact
- Behaviour and Attitude – assessing expectations of, and standards of, pupil behaviour and their attitude to education
- Personal Development – assessing opportunities beyond the curriculum and preparing pupils for “life in modern Britain”
- Leadership and Management – ensuring whether values, policies, and vision are shared and inclusive
- Monitoring the effective implementation in the academy of local and TLET policies

- **Stakeholders – point of engagement for key academy groups**

- Pupils – ensuring that the ‘pupil voice’ is heard and understood
- Parents / carers – listening to parents and considering their point of view
- Staff – listening to staff and considering their point of view
- Community – being a link to the wider community and advocating for the Trust
- Complaints – being a point of escalation for stakeholders in accordance with the TLET Complaints Policy

- **Safeguarding – ensuring effectiveness of policy and practice**

- Policy – keeping up-to-date and reflected across academy activities
- Compliance – including recruitment and Single Central Register; oversight of exclusion and suspension decisions
- Implementation – providing evidence-based assurance that policy is followed and that there is a ‘culture of safeguarding’ throughout the academy

- **SEND – championing all forms of inclusion**

- Pupil Premium – reviewing academy strategy, funding, and impact
- SEN – reviewing provision for pupils with all inclusion needs
- Inclusion – ensuring focus on outcomes for all pupil cohorts

- **Self-assessment – helping the Trust Board to ‘know our schools’**

- Performance – assessing leadership’s self-evaluation of the school’s performance and progress
- Planning – supporting leadership’s development of the Academy Development Plan
- Reporting – sharing the self-assessment and any concerns with the Trust Board

Disciplines provided by the Trust central team (HR, Estates, H&S, IT, Finance) will not be a key focus for LGB, except when those services might impact on the delivery of high quality, inclusive education.

5. Engagement with the Trust Board

The relationship between the Trust Board and the LGB is based on two-way engagement. The LGB provides academy-level intelligence to ensure that the wider Trust “knows their schools”, and the Trust Board will engage LGB in developing its strategy and plans.

LGB Reporting

As the Trust Board’s ‘eyes & ears’, it is essential that helpful evidence accrued is shared with the Trust Board. There are two elements to this reporting:

- **Regular updates:**

- LGB concerns – Chairs will share any key concerns that have been discussed at an LGB meeting. These should be sent to the Trust Board Chair and Clerk within 2 weeks of the LGB. These concerns could be actual or potential risks to the delivery by the academy of high quality, inclusive education, or operational matters which might need more co-ordination between academy and Trust centre.
- LGB minutes – these should be shared with the Trust Board Clerk once the LGB Chair has confirmed the draft.
- Providing the LGB’s assessment of the academy against the TLET ‘categorisation framework’ (see Appendix 3) whenever it has been reviewed.

- **Escalations**

- The LGB Chair or Vice Chair can raise any important, urgent concerns directly with the Chair of the Trust Board. Decisions regarding what should / shouldn’t be escalated will be left to the judgement of LGB Chairs / Vice Chairs.

Board engagement with LGB

The Trust Board shall support the work of the LGB by:

- setting a clear strategic vision to allow the LGB to set and achieve its own aims and objectives within such vision
- ensuring that systems are put in place to allow the Governors to be presented with timely and accurate data to allow them to analyse academy performance, and thereby to support and challenge the Principal and the senior leadership team of the academy
- ensuring that the Governors have access to high quality training or professional development informed by a skills audit
- providing selected LGB with a ‘Link Trustee’ (for which separate Terms of Reference exist). This provision is not an entitlement of each LGB within the Trust, and the appointment and continuing service of a Link Trustee is at the discretion of the Trust Board.

The Trust Board will provide regular updates to LGB via their Chairs and Vice Chairs:

- The Chair of the Trust Board will provide a summary of the key discussions following each Board meeting to the LGB Chairs and Vice Chairs who can decide whether and how they share these with other Governors.

If there is confidential information not to be shared more widely, this will be marked accordingly. These will ideally be shared within 2 weeks of the Trust Board meeting.

- Chairs of Board sub-committees (Safeguarding Standards Committee, Audit & Risk Committee and Business Standards Committee) should share the output of their discussions where they are relevant to LGB and/or where the sub-committee would welcome 'eyes & ears' evidence from LGB.

6. Composition

LGB shall normally comprise 9-11 Governors drawn from the academy, parents/carers, and the local community, with specific composition as follows:

- **Academy**
 - Academy Principal (or the CEO if no such person is appointed); **and**
 - Academy staff (2 Governors)
- **Parental** (2 Governors)
 - Parents/carers of children of the academy
- **Community** (4-6 Governors)
 - Business or educational professionals; **or**
 - Office holders of community organisations from the admissions priority area/s served by the Academy.

7. The Role and Duties of the Governors

Governors work together to carry out the core responsibilities of the LGB. Governors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the LGB by:

- attending meetings, reading papers, and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the LGB
- getting to know the Academy, including visiting at least 2-3 times per year during academy hours
- Ensuring reasonable care, skill, and experience (individual and collective) is used in the running and management of the Academy
- Ensuring that all decisions are taken within the LGB's powers set out in the SoDA
- Always complying with the Code of Business Conduct which commits to the seven 'Nolan' Principles of Public Life
- Declaring any personal financial interest should they, or any child, stepchild, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister, or spouse of theirs or any person living with them as their Governor, be:
 - in the employment of the Trust, or
 - in receipt of remuneration or the provision of any other benefit directly from the Trust, or one of its academies, or

- employed by a company tendering for or providing services to the Trust or its academies.

Governors are required to take part in regular self-review and are accountable for meeting their own training and development needs, raising with the LGB Chair if they feel appropriate training and development is not being provided.

The LGB Chair shall nominate a 'lead Governor' having specific oversight for Academy functional/operational areas such as Safeguarding, Pupil Premium / SEND, Staff and Student Wellbeing, or to focus on a curriculum area. In so doing, it is on the understanding that responsibility for such areas is vested in all Governors and not solely that of the lead Governor.

Governors may also be asked to sit on review panels as necessary, for example to hear escalated parental complaints or to review permanent exclusions. Training will be provided to all Governors who agree to sit on panels.

8. Term of Office

The term of office for all LGB Governors shall be 4 years, save for the Academy Principal who shall remain a Governor until they cease to work at the Academy. There is no maximum number of terms that a Governor can serve but re-appointment by the Trust Board is required at the expiry of a term. Staff and Parent Governors will be subject to re-election by their respective bodies after the expiry of two four-year terms (assuming alternative candidates come forward).

The Chair and Vice Chair of LGB shall be nominated by the LGB and appointed by the Trustees and may be removed from office by the Trustees at any time. The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be 2 years. Subject to re-appointment and remaining eligible, the maximum term of continuous office in either the Chair or Vice Chair role shall be 6 years, unless agreed otherwise by the Trust Board. An office holder may continue to serve as a Governor once their term as Chair or Vice Chair has come to an end. Due to the risk of conflicts of interest, Staff Governors cannot serve as LGB Chair or Vice Chair.

9. Quorum

A duly convened LGB meeting at which more than 50% of voting members are present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities vested in an LGB.

If the meeting is not quorate, any matter decided by the LGB will only be a recommendation and must be ratified by the Trust Board.

Every matter to be decided at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Governors present and entitled to vote on the matter. Every Governor shall have one vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

Any Governor who is also an employee of the Trust shall withdraw from any part of the meeting at which their employment or conditions of service (such as remuneration, promotion, retirement) are to be considered.

In exceptional circumstances, but at the discretion of the Chair, decisions can be made outside of an LGB meeting by email confirmation from individual Governors to the Chair and Clerk sufficient in number to meet the Quorum rules. Any decisions made in such a manner will need to be ratified at the next LGB meeting.

10. Governance Professional

The Chair of the Trust Board shall ensure a governance professional ('clerk') is available to support LGB

meetings. The clerk shall not be a Trustee of TLET, a TLET Governor, or a TLET employee based at the Academy in question.

11. Frequency and Conduct of Meetings

The LGB shall meet at least 4 times a year and at least once per term, although most will meet once in each half-term.

Governors shall declare their pecuniary and personal interests at the time of their appointment, the beginning of each academic year of their service, and undertake to update this register whenever new information needs to be disclosed to the LGB. This Declaration of Interests shall be published on the Academy's website. All persons in a position of governance are required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check from the Disclosure and Barring Service, known as a DBS check. This check must be undertaken to determine an individual's suitability for the role, and prior to the role commencing.

Meetings shall normally be face to face, however, if circumstance dictates, meetings can be facilitated via video conferencing. Hybrid meetings are permitted.

All meetings will be chaired by the Chair of the LGB. In the absence of the Chair, the meeting will be chaired by the Vice-Chair. In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair, the remaining Governors present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting. Any member taking the role of Chair in the meeting shall have the powers allotted to the role of Chair as set out in this document.

The LGB may ask any or all of those who normally attend, but who are not Governors, to withdraw from the discussion of particular matters to facilitate open and frank discussion.

12. Attendance

LGB Governors shall maintain a level of attendance to ensure proper business practice and continuity. Sustained irregular attendance of two consecutive absences and/or three within a year will prompt an attendance review with the Chair, which could result in termination of the Governor's term of office.

Members of the LGB may ask any other officials of the Academy and Trust to attend to assist it with its discussions on any particular matter.

A register of attendance shall be kept for the LGB and published regularly throughout the year on the Academy's website as part of its Declaration of Interests report.

13. Notice of Meetings

The Chair and Principal should use the template agenda to agree the forthcoming agenda. Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting shall be given no later than ten academy days before the date of the meeting. Papers confirming the venue, time, date, an agenda of the items to be discussed, and any relevant papers shall be made available no less than 5 academy days before the meeting either by email or on a dedicated governance web service (such as GovernorHub).

Where there are matters demanding urgent consideration, the Chair may waive the need for ten days' notice of the meeting and substitute such notice as they think fit.

In addition to its scheduled meetings, further meetings of the LGB may be called at the request of the Board or of the Chair of the Board. Furthermore, any three Governors, giving notice in writing to the clerk, may call a meeting of the LGB.

Draft minutes should be shared with the Chair within a week after the meeting. The agreed draft should be shared with all LGB attendees via GovernorHub within two weeks after the meeting.

14. Monitoring Terms of Reference

The Trust Board, in consultation with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the LGBs, will review these Terms of Reference to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and support the working practice of the Trust, subject to regulatory change requirements, every year. Any changes shall be approved by the Trust Board.

15. Related Documents

[TLET System of Governance and Working Practices](#)

[TLET Scheme of Delegated Authority \(SoDA\)](#)

[TLET Code of Business Conduct](#)

[TLET Link Trustee Terms of Reference](#)

[TLET Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interests](#)

[The ESFA Academy Trust Handbook \(updated annually\)](#)

[National Governance Association Skills Audit and Matrix](#)

[The Ofsted Education Inspection Framework](#)

[The DfE Governance Handbook](#) - an essential resource for governors and Trustees outlining roles and responsibilities for those governing. It also details the legal duties of the governing board of all state schools in England.

Appendices

1. Governor Recruitment
2. Annual Standard LGB Agenda
3. TLET Categorisation Framework

Appendix 1 – Governor recruitment

- When a vacancy arises on LGBs, a new Governor can be recruited in a variety of ways.
- Vacancies occurring during the academic year are to be notified to the Trust Board by the Chair of LGB, with in-year appointments ratified by the Trustees at the closest scheduled meeting of the Trust Board to the appointment.
- Until ratified by the Trust Board, all LGB membership/ appointments are provisional.
- Trustees have the right to appoint such additional persons to LGBs as they shall determine from time to time.
- LGBs have the authority to appoint short-term roles. Where an LGB needs to engage short-term support arising from the requirement for a particular skill/expertise or for a specific project, such roles are deemed to be akin to ‘sub-contractors’ and, as such, not recognised by the Trust Board as LGB Governors.

Staff Governors

- The academy Principal (or Trust CEO if no such Principal is appointed) shall automatically become a Staff Governor upon appointment.
- LGB shall invite nominations from all staff under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide services to the academy and, where there are any contested posts, shall hold an election by a secret ballot.
- All arrangements for the calling and conduct of the election and resolution of questions as to whether any person is an eligible candidate shall be determined in advance by the Trust Board. The Trust Board may delegate the running of the election to the Principal.
- If the Trust Board delegates the running of the election to the Principal, the outcome of the election will be reported, including the number of votes cast, to the Trust Board.
- Regardless of whether the election is run by Principal or the Trust Board, the Trust Board will appoint the required number of Staff Governors.

Parent Governors

- Parents of registered pupils/students at the academy shall elect Parent Governors of LGB.
- Parent Governor candidates must be parents or carers of pupils at the academy at the time when they are elected.
- Carers include legal guardians, grandparents, or adult siblings.
- All arrangements for the calling and conduct of the election and resolution of questions as to whether any person is an eligible candidate shall be determined in advance by the Trust Board. The Trust Board may delegate the running of the election to LGB.
- If the Trust Board delegates the running of the election to LGB, LGB will report the outcome of the election, including the number of votes cast, to the Trust Board. Regardless of whether the election is run by LGB or the Trust Board, the Trust Board will appoint the required number of Parent Governors.

- Where a vacancy for a Parent Governor is required to be filled by election, LGBs shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that every person who is known to them to be a parent or carer of a registered pupil at the academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that they are entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given the opportunity to do so.
- Any election of persons who are to be the Parent Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. The arrangements made for the election of the parent Governors shall provide for every person who is entitled to vote in the election to have an opportunity to do so by post or, if they prefer, by having their ballot paper returned to the academy by a registered pupil at the academy.

Community Governors

- Providing that the Trust Board has been informed of the vacancy, LGBs can, through proper and transparent advertising, recruit Community Governors to be formally appointed to LGB by the Trust Board.
- Community Governors must be:
 - a person who lives or works in the community served by the academy; **or**
 - a person who, in the opinion of the Trust Board, has the necessary skill set and is committed to the governance and success of the academy.
- Employees of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust are eligible to be Community Governors on an LGB other than the one for their academy, if they meet one of the above criteria.

Appendix 2 – Local Governing Board Annual Standard Agenda 2025/2026

October 2024	December 2024	February 2025	April 2025	May 2025	July 2025
1. Meeting Administration					
1.1 Welcome and apologies, etc	1.1 Welcome and apologies	1.1 Welcome and apologies	1.1 Welcome and apologies	1.1 Welcome and apologies	1.1 Welcome and apologies
1.2 Agree/confirm key positions – Chair/Vice Chair	1.2 Declaration of interests	1.2 Declaration of interests	1.2 Declaration of interests	1.2 Declaration of interests	1.2 Declaration of interests
1.2 Annual declarations (inc. GIAS update, KCSIE)	1.3 Approval of minutes	1.3 Approval of minutes	1.3 Approval of minutes	1.3 Approval of minutes	1.3 Approval of minutes
1.3 Declaration of interests (meeting)	1.4 Matters arising / Action Log	1.4 Matters arising / Action Log	1.4 Matters arising / Action Log	1.4 Matters arising / Action Log	1.4 Matters arising / Action Log
1.4 Approval of minutes					
1.5 Matters arising / Action Log					
2. 2023-24 Results vs Targets	2. Academy Evaluation	2. Governor Visits	2. Academy Evaluation	2. Governor Visits	2. Academy Evaluation
2.1 External examinations/assessments	2.1 AES reporting re priority ADP areas (agreed in October)	2.1 Discuss reports from visits	2.1 AES reporting re priority ADP areas (agreed in October)	2.1 Discuss reports from visits	2.1 AES reporting re priority ADP areas (agreed in October)
2.2 Other Academy targets	2.2 Safeguarding report		2.2 Safeguarding report		2.2 Safeguarding report
	2.3 Attendance Report		2.3 Attendance Report		2.3 Attendance Report
3. Categorisation Framework	3. Governor Visits Reports	3. Academy Development Plan	3. Governor Visits Reports	3. Academy Development Plan	3. Governor Visits Reports
3.1 Principal to present leadership's categorisation	3.1 Discuss reports from visits to areas agreed in October	3.1 Principal to provide update on ADP progress and challenges	3.1 Discuss reports from visits to areas agreed in October	3.1 Principal to provide update on ADP progress and challenges	3.1 Discuss reports from visits to areas agreed in October
3.2 Discussion and revision/agreement		3.2 Safeguarding update		3.2 Safeguarding update	
3.3 Agree key areas of concern					
4. Academy Development Plan	4. Stakeholder Voice	4. SLT Presentation	4. Stakeholder Voice	4. SLT Presentation	4. Stakeholder Voice
4.1 Principal to present draft ADP	4.1 Staff engagement/survey feedback in Term 1	4.1 [Subject to be agreed in advance, based on ADP key areas]	4.1 Staff engagement/survey feedback in Term 1	4.1 [Subject to be agreed in advance, based on ADP key areas]	4.1 Staff engagement/survey feedback in Term 1
4.2 Discussion and revision/agreement	4.2 Pupil survey/engagement forum feedback		4.2 Pupil survey/engagement forum feedback		4.2 Pupil survey/engagement forum feedback
	4.3 Parent survey/engagement forum feedback/complaints		4.3 Parent survey/engagement forum feedback/complaints		4.3 Parent survey/engagement forum feedback/complaints
5. Governor Roles and Visits	5. QA Visit Findings	5. Categorisation Framework	5. QA Visit Findings	5. Categorisation Framework	5. QA Visit Findings
5.1 Nominate to Governor lead roles: • Safeguarding • SEND/Pupil Premium • EYFS (HH): Careers (AS/HS) • Others (dep. on ADP)	5.1 Findings and key actions identified	5.1 Review ratings and overall categorisation	5.1 Findings and key actions identified	5.1 Review ratings and overall categorisation	5.1 Findings and key actions identified
5.2 Agree schedule of visits		5.2 Confirm areas for short-term focus		5.2 Confirm areas for short-term focus	
		5.3 Agree evidence required in future meetings		5.3 Agree evidence required in future meetings	
6. Policies	6. Policies	6. Policies	6. Policies	6. Policies	6. Policies
Localised:	Localised:	Localised:	Localised:	Localised:	Localised:

Pupil Premium Statement and Review PE Sport Premium (Primary only) SEND Information Report & Local Offer Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks	Examinations Suite (secondary only) Uniform Policy School Music Development Plan Accessibility Plan Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks	Curriculum Information 2025-2026 Early Years Framework Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks	Educational Trips and Visits Policy Careers Guidance Policy (inc provider access statement) Equalities and Diversity Statement Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks	Relationships and Sex Education Policy Children Looked After Policy Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks	Behaviour Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Physical Intervention and Restraint Policy Aligned or Central Policies the with clerks
7. Safeguarding	7. Pay				7. Next Year
7.1 Safeguarding control issues/update or lead Governor report	7.1 Pay awards: review and approve (as necessary)				7.1 Potential priorities for 25-26 ADP
					7.2 Initial view of 25-26 targets
8. Additional Items					
8.1 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board	8.1 LGB best practice/CVC update	8.1 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board	8.1 LGB best practice/CVC update	8.1 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board	8.1 LGB best practice/CVC update
8.2 Any other business	8.2 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board	8.2 Any other business	8.2 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board	8.2 Any other business	8.2 Agree LGB feedback to Trust Board
	8.3 Any other business		8.3 Any other business		8.3 Any other business
9. Agree Confidential Items					
10. Next Meeting					

Appendix 3 - Categorisation Framework

LGB Categorisation Framework