

Reach South Academy Trust

Local Governance Committee

Terms of Reference 2026-27

1. Purpose

The Local Governance Committee (LGC) is a committee of the Board of Trustees established to provide local scrutiny, challenge and assurance regarding the effectiveness, culture and performance of an individual academy.

The LGC supports the Board of Trustees and Executive Team by providing local insight, stakeholder engagement and scrutiny of academy performance within the Trust's governance framework.

The LGC operates within the Reach South Academy Trust Scheme of Delegation and these Terms of Reference. The Board of Trustees retains ultimate accountability for all Trust activities.

2. Authority

The LGC is authorised by the Board of Trustees to:

- Scrutinise academy performance and improvement
- Seek assurance from academy leaders regarding compliance, performance and risk
- Monitor implementation of Trust policies and frameworks
- Engage with stakeholders and provide local insight
- Escalate concerns and recommendations to the Executive Team and Board of Trustees
- Undertake delegated statutory functions and panel hearings where required
- Approve academy-level policies and local policy arrangements where delegated

The LGC may exercise delegated authority only where expressly provided within the Scheme of Delegation, Trust policies, statutory guidance or these Terms of Reference.

The LGC shall not exercise any powers reserved to Members, the Board of Trustees or Trust Board Committees.

3. Membership

The LGC shall comprise:

- Trust-appointed Governors.
- Parent Governors.
- Staff Governors.
- Co-opted Governors.
- The Headteacher (ex-officio)

The committee will normally consist of between six and twelve members

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed in accordance with Trust governance arrangements

The Chair may invite additional attendees where their expertise would support the work of the Committee. Trustees and members of the Executive Team may attend meetings at their discretion

4. Meetings

The LGC shall meet three times during each academic year, with additional meetings arranged where necessary

Meetings may be held in person, virtually or through hybrid arrangements

The quorum for any meeting shall be three members or one-third of the membership in post, whichever is greater

A Governance Professional or Clerk appointed by the Trust shall provide administrative and governance support to the Committee

5. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the LGC are set out in full in Appendix 1.

The LGC provides assurance through scrutiny of the following key areas:

- Academy vision, ethos and strategic priorities
- Educational performance and pupil outcomes
- Curriculum delivery and quality of education
- Equality, inclusion and SEND
- Vulnerable pupils, including looked after and previously looked after children
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Governance and stakeholder engagement
- Policy implementation and regulatory compliance
- Risk management and business continuity
- Estates, health and safety
- Admissions, attendance and pupil administration
- Inspection readiness and post-inspection improvement
- Workforce wellbeing
- Educational impact of resources and pupil premium funding

In carrying out its responsibilities, the LGC shall focus on providing scrutiny, challenge, local insight and assurance rather than undertaking operational management.

6. Reporting

The LGC shall:

- Provide assurance to the Executive Team and Board through agreed reporting arrangements
- Escalate significant risks, concerns and recommendations promptly
- Notify the Head of Governance of serious concerns relating to safeguarding, educational standards, compliance or operational risk, for escalation to the Trust Executive
- Contribute to Trust-wide governance reporting and assurance processes
- Maintain an annual programme of governance activity aligned with Trust priorities

7. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees and amended as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, governance arrangements or the Reach South Academy Trust Scheme of Delegation.

Appendix 1: Local Governance Committee Responsibilities

Area	Responsibilities
Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction	Champion the Trust's vision, values and ethos within the academy.
	Support and scrutinise delivery of academy strategic priorities and improvement plans.
	Provide local insight regarding community needs and act as ambassadors for the academy and Trust.
Educational Performance and Quality of Education	Scrutinise educational performance, pupil outcomes, attendance and behaviour.
	Review attainment, progress, achievement and curriculum delivery.
	Monitor progress against academy improvement priorities and challenge underperformance.
	Provide assurance regarding educational standards and the quality of education.
Inclusion, SEND and Vulnerable Pupils	Scrutinise SEND provision and outcomes and monitor compliance with the SEND Code of Practice.
	Monitor outcomes and provision for disadvantaged pupils, vulnerable groups, looked after and previously looked after children.
	Review equality, diversity and inclusion arrangements and the implementation of inclusion strategies.
	Appoint a SEND and Inclusion Link Governor.
Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare	Monitor safeguarding culture, practice and compliance with statutory requirements.
	Receive safeguarding reports and assurance regarding safeguarding training, audits and the Single Central Record.
	Monitor safeguarding-related attendance, behaviour and welfare trends.
	Escalate safeguarding concerns as appropriate.
	Appoint a Safeguarding Link Governor.
Governance and Stakeholder Engagement	Promote effective governance and contribute to governance reviews, recruitment, induction and governor development.
	Monitor engagement with parents, staff, pupils and the wider community and ensure stakeholder views are considered.
	Maintain oversight of declarations of interest and standards of governance conduct.
	Maintain agreed Link Governor roles and receive reports to support assurance and challenge.
Compliance, Risk and Business Continuity	Monitor compliance with statutory requirements and implementation of Trust policies.
	Review academy-level risks, business continuity arrangements and operational resilience.
	Monitor publication of statutory information and escalate significant compliance or risk concerns.
	Approve academy-level policies and local policy arrangements where delegated.
Estates, Health and Safety	Monitor premises condition, health and safety compliance, accessibility and local site risks.
	Receive assurance regarding statutory compliance and capital projects where appropriate.
	Appoint a Health and Safety Link Governor.
Admissions and Inspection Readiness	Monitor admissions, pupil roll trends, exclusions and pupil movement.

	Monitor readiness for Ofsted and other inspections and review progress against improvement actions arising from inspections or reviews.
People and Resources	Monitor staff wellbeing, workload and workforce matters affecting academy effectiveness.
	Receive updates on academy finances and scrutinise the educational impact of resource allocation, including Pupil Premium and other ring-fenced funding.
	Escalate concerns regarding workforce capacity or resource sufficiency.
	The LGC shall not approve budgets, expenditure, staffing establishments or pay awards.
Statutory panels and hearings	Establish complaints, admissions and suspensions/exclusions panels where required and ensure panel members are appropriately trained.