

Reach South Academy Trust

Education Committee

Terms of Reference 2026-27

1. Purpose

The Education Committee is a committee of the Board of Trustees established to provide focused scrutiny, challenge and assurance regarding educational performance, curriculum quality, inclusion, safeguarding, attendance, behaviour and pupil outcomes across Reach South Academy Trust.

The Committee supports the Board of Trustees in discharging its responsibilities by scrutinising the effectiveness of educational provision and ensuring that appropriate action is taken where risks to educational standards are identified.

The Committee operates within the Reach South Academy Trust Scheme of Delegation and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

2. Authority

The Committee is authorised by the Board of Trustees to:

- Investigate any matter within its terms of reference.
- Seek information from any employee of the Trust.
- Request reports and presentations from members of the Executive Team and academy leaders.
- Commission reviews or external advice where appropriate and authorised by the Board.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on matters within its remit.

The Committee has no executive powers other than those specifically delegated by the Board.

3. Membership

The Committee shall comprise:

- No fewer than three and no more than five members.
- A majority of members must be Trustees.
- The Chair shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director of Education and other senior leaders may attend by invitation.

The Governance Professional shall clerk the Committee.

The Committee may invite individuals with particular expertise to attend meetings where appropriate.

4. Meetings

The Committee shall meet termly, with additional meetings arranged where necessary.

Meetings shall be convened by the Governance Professional in consultation with the Chair.

Agenda papers shall normally be circulated at least five working days in advance.

The quorum for any meeting shall be one half of the membership, rounded up, with a majority of those present being Trustees.

Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting.

The Chair shall have a casting vote where votes are equal.

5. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Committee are set out in full in Appendix 1. The Committee provides assurance to the Board through scrutiny of the following key areas:

- Educational performance and pupil outcomes
- Curriculum and assessment
- Suspensions, exclusions and off-site direction
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- SEND provision
- Looked After and Previously Looked After Children
- Safeguarding
- Admissions
- Inspection readiness and post-inspection monitoring
- Trust-wide school improvement

6. Reporting

The Committee shall:

- Provide reports and recommendations to the Board of Trustees following each meeting.
- Highlight significant risks, concerns and recommended actions.
- Provide an annual summary report to the Board detailing the Committee's work and the assurances obtained during the year.

7. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually by the Committee and recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Appendix 1: Education Committee responsibilities

Area	Responsibilities
Educational Performance and Outcomes	Scrutinise educational performance and pupil outcomes across the Trust.
	Receive and challenge termly reports on pupil attainment, achievement and progress.
	Monitor performance against Trust strategic priorities and key performance indicators.
	Scrutinise the performance of individual academies and groups of academies where concerns are identified.
	Monitor outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, SEND pupils, looked after children, previously looked after children and other vulnerable groups.
	Receive assurance that appropriate interventions are in place where educational performance falls below expectations.
Curriculum and Quality of Education	Scrutinise the implementation and effectiveness of the Trust-wide curriculum framework.
	Receive assurance that curriculum provision complies with statutory requirements.
	Monitor the quality of education across all academies.
	Scrutinise arrangements for teaching, learning and assessment.
	Ensure effective quality assurance arrangements are in place across the Trust.
	Monitor the impact of school improvement activity and curriculum development.
Inclusion, Equality and SEND	Scrutinise compliance with the SEND Code of Practice and equality legislation.
	Monitor Trust-wide inclusion strategies and their impact.
	Receive reports regarding SEND outcomes and provision.
	Monitor performance and participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups.
	Receive assurance that the Trust is meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty.
	Review progress against Trust equality objectives.
Vulnerable Pupils	Monitor the effectiveness of support provided for looked after children and previously looked after children.
	Receive assurance regarding the educational outcomes of vulnerable pupils.
	Scrutinise the effectiveness of interventions for pupils requiring additional support.
Attendance, Behaviour and Exclusions	Monitor attendance, persistent absence and pupil engagement across the Trust.
	Scrutinise suspension, exclusion and off-site direction data.
	Review behavioural trends and patterns.
	Receive assurance that behaviour policies are being implemented effectively.
	Monitor the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve attendance and behaviour.
Safeguarding and Child Protection	Scrutinise safeguarding practice and compliance across the Trust.
	Receive regular safeguarding reports and assurance from Trust leaders.
	Monitor compliance with statutory safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education.
	Receive assurance regarding safeguarding training, systems and culture.

	Scrutinise safeguarding risks and the effectiveness of actions taken to address them.
	Report any significant concerns to the Board of Trustees.
Admissions and Pupil Administration	Scrutinise arrangements for admissions across the Trust.
	Receive assurance that admissions arrangements comply with statutory requirements and the School Admissions Code.
	Monitor admissions trends where these affect strategic planning, inclusion or educational outcomes.
Inspection, Accountability and School Improvement	Monitor Trust preparations for Ofsted and other external inspections.
	Receive reports on inspection outcomes.
	Scrutinise progress against post-inspection action plans.
	Monitor school improvement priorities and their impact.
	Receive assurance regarding the effectiveness of Trust school improvement strategies.
Governance Assurance	Provide assurance to the Board regarding the effectiveness of educational provision across the Trust.
	Identify emerging educational risks and recommend mitigating actions.
	Escalate significant concerns relating to educational standards, safeguarding or inclusion to the Board promptly.
	Review annually its effectiveness and contribution to the Trust governance framework.