Brontë Academy Trust

Educational Standards Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The Educational Standards Committee ("the Committee") is a committee of the Board of Trustees of Brontë Academy Trust. The Committee is established to support the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities for educational performance, curriculum, standards, safeguarding, inclusion, and pupil outcomes across the Trust.

All powers and responsibilities of the Committee are delegated by the Trust Board in accordance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to provide strategic oversight, challenge, support, and assurance regarding the quality of education and educational standards across all academies within the Trust.

The Committee will monitor educational performance, promote continuous improvement, and ensure that all pupils receive a broad, balanced, inclusive, and high-quality education.

3. Membership and Administration

3.1 Membership

- The Committee shall comprise a minimum of three Trustees.
- Membership should include at least one Trustee with primary phase experience
- The Trust Board shall appoint the Chair of the Committee.
- Employees of the Trust may not serve as Committee members.

3.2 Attendance

- The Accounting Officer/CEO and shall attend meetings to provide information and professional advice but shall not have voting rights.
- The Committee may appoint or invite educational expert advisers where appropriate.
- Any Trustee may attend meetings of the Committee, whether or not they are members.

3.3 Quorum

- The quorum for meetings shall be two Committee members.

3.4 Governance Professional

- Administrative support shall be provided by the Governance Professional who will:
    - convene meetings;
    - circulate agendas and papers;
    - take minutes; and
    - maintain records of meetings and decisions.

4. Meetings

- The Committee shall meet at least three times per academic year.
- Additional meetings may be convened by the Chair as required.
- Minutes shall be approved by the Chair in draft form and submitted to the next meeting of the Trust Board.
- The Chair, or a nominated Committee member, shall provide updates to the Trust Board on the work of the Committee.

5. Delegated Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

Strategic Oversight and Educational Standards

1. Hold Trust leaders to account for the quality of education across the Trust.
2. Provide challenge and support at the Trust-wide level to ensure that teaching and learning are consistently at the expected standard or better
3. Scrutinise the performance of each school against agreed targets and national benchmarks.
4. Recommend ambitious educational targets to the Trust Board for approval.
5. Consider the aims and priorities for raising standards within the Trust Strategic Plan.
6. Undertake and regularly review the Trust Risk register for educational standards

Quality of Education and Curriculum

8. Ensure that a broad, balanced, inclusive, and ambitious curriculum is provided for all pupils.
9. Approve School improvement plans in line with the Trust's strategic priorities.
10. Receive and consider reports from the Executive Team on:
    - pupil outcomes and progress;
    - forecast performance;
    - national benchmarking data;
    - quality of teaching, learning and assessment;
    - academy improvement priorities; and
11. Hold the Executive Team to account for pupil outcomes, safeguarding, and the quality of education in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
12. Ensure that each school fulfils its statutory duties relating to publication of curriculum and performance information.

Behaviour, Safeguarding and Inclusion

13. Receive and consider annual reports relating to:
    - safeguarding;
    - SEND and inclusion;
    - pupil behaviour and exclusions.
14. Ensure there is a designated Trustee with oversight responsibility for safeguarding and across the Trust.
15. Monitor the use of suspensions and exclusions across Trust academies.
16. Ensure that legal requirements relating to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are met and that appropriate support is provided.
17. Monitor provision relating to behaviour, attitudes, personal development, leadership and management.

Funding and Educational Improvement

19. Monitor and challenge the impact and use of Pupil Premium and other educational funding.

Policies and Compliance

20. Establish, review, and recommend educational policies in accordance with the Trust's policy schedule.

Significant Organisational Change

22. Recommend to the Trust Board proposals relating to:
    - changes to lower or upper age ranges;
    - changes to gender composition;
    - changes to SEND provision;
    - changes affecting provision reserved for pupils with SEND

6. Reporting

The Committee shall report regularly to the Trust Board and escalate any significant concerns relating to educational standards, safeguarding, compliance, or pupil outcomes.

7. Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually by the Committee and approved by the Trust Board.