



Durham &  
Newcastle  
Diocesan  
Learning  
Trust

## **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**of**

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN LEARNING TRUST (“DNDLT”)**

**in relation to**

**THE ACADEMY COUNCIL OF INGLETON AND GAINFORD CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: [ 07/11/2024 ]**

**‘Every child matters and no child is ever left behind’**

*“Let the little children come to me and do not stop them for it is to such as these that  
the Kingdom of God belongs”*

Signed to confirm acknowledgement of receipt on behalf of the Academy Council of Gainford and Ingleton Church of England Primary Schools

.....  
W.J.D.

Date 7/11/24.....(effective from

PRINT NAME.....MR WILLIAM JAMES DEAKIN

Signed on behalf of Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust

P. D. Rickeard

Date:

PRINT NAME: .Paul Rickeard, CEO

## **CONTENTS**

- 1. Definitions**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Ethos and Mission Statement**
- 4. Delegated Powers and Responsibilities**
- 5. Annual Review**

### **Schedule 1**

**Constitution of the Academy Council**

### **Schedule 2**

**Functions of and Decision-making by the Academy Council.**

## 1. DEFINITIONS

In this Scheme:

“**AC**” means the Academy Council of the Academy as constituted by this Scheme;

“**Academy**” means one of either of the two schools covered by this Scheme.

“**Academies**” means Ingleton Church of England Primary School and Gainford Church of England Primary School

“**Articles**” means the Articles of Association of Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust from time to time;

“**Budget**” means the annual budget set for the Academies in accordance with the Master Funding Agreement and/or the Supplemental Funding Agreement;

“**DBE**” means the Diocesan Board of Education within which the school is situated (being Durham or Newcastle)

“**Directors**” means the directors of the MAT;

“**Head Teacher**” means the Executive head teacher of the Academies;

“**Master Funding Agreement**” means the Master Funding Agreement entered into by DNDLT and the Secretary of State for Education effective on 1 November 2017 and the parallel Master Funding Agreement entered into effective on 1 April 2022;

“**Operating Levels**” mean the two levels of delegated authority based on Ofsted's grading as determined by MAT from time to time as set out in Schedule 2 of this Scheme;

“**Supplemental Funding Agreement**” means the Supplemental Funding Agreement entered into by MAT and the Secretary of State for Education in respect of the Academy;

“**Trustees**” means those trustees holding the Academy's site and providing them to DNDLT for use and occupation by the Academy.

“**Responsible officer**” means the person who ensures that there is adequate supervision being done around audit functions

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 As a charity and company limited by guarantee, the MAT is governed by a board of Directors who are responsible for, and oversee, the management and administration of the MAT and the academies run by the MAT. The Academies are two of the academies overseen and managed by the MAT.
- 2.2 The Directors are accountable to external government agencies including the Charity Commission and the Department for Education (including any successor bodies) for the quality of the education provided by the MAT and they are required to have systems in place through which they can assure themselves of quality, safety and good practice.
- 2.3 As the Academies are Church of England academies, designated as such, the Directors are also accountable to the DBE under the provisions of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021, and to the Trustees, to ensure that the Academies are conducted as Church of England schools.
- 2.4 The management of the business of the Academies shall be delegated by the Directors to the AC, a committee of the Directors established by this Scheme, according to its Operating Level.
- 2.5 In addition to clause 2.4, the role of the AC is to:
- 2.5.1 maintain an overview and keep the Directors properly informed of the conduct and progress of the Academies;
  - 2.5.2 act as a critical friend to the Head Teacher and staff of the Academies;
  - 2.5.3 be accountable to the Directors, parents and the wider community for the AC's actions and each Academy's overall performance.
- 2.6 This Scheme has been put in place by the Directors from the Effective Date in accordance with the provisions of the Articles and it should be read in conjunction with those Articles as well as with:
- 2.6.1 the Directors' strategic plans and policies for the Academies; and
  - 2.6.2 the Budget.

## **3. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

- 3.1 The vision of the MAT is as follows:

## **‘Every child matters and no child is ever left behind’**

*“Let the little children come to me and do not stop them for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs”*

- At the heart of our vision is our commitment to ensure all of our schools are places where children and young people develop and thrive academically, socially, culturally and spiritually. The drive for excellence and effectiveness in our schools is paramount, but not merely because the Government says so. The enabling of every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God is a sign and expression of the Kingdom and is at the heart of the Church’s distinctive mission.

### 3.2 The mission statement of the MAT is as follows:

- The MAT’s Mission is to support and encourage the work of academies in our MAT, promoting Christian distinctiveness through the high quality education of children and young people across the MAT whilst enabling and actively encouraging each school to retain and develop its own unique identity within the local community it serves.

### 3.3 The Core Values of the MAT are:-

- To ensure that our academies are centres of excellence with a focus on academic outcomes and the nurture of resilience & respect as set out in the Ofsted Inspection Handbook.
- To promote high quality professional development and encourage mutual support in the pursuit of effective teaching and good pupil progress.
- To develop innovative and aspirational thinking building on our long educational heritage and to make use of the latest research in pedagogy and child development.
- To foster, maintain and celebrate Christian distinctiveness in our schools.
- To ensure our academies have a particular vocation to the least advantaged, enabling them through education to change their life opportunities.

### 3.4 The Core Purpose of the MAT is:-

- The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust will be a strong option within the Diocese of Durham and the Diocese of Newcastle for any church

school who wishes to become an academy and, over time, will act as the lead sponsor for any Church schools within the Dioceses which are being directed to become sponsored academies by the Department for Education. It will act as a vehicle for enabling the sharing of best practice and economies of scale achievable across a group of academies.

- Our school improvement approach seeks to build strong capacity to improve from within and a culture that looks outward and never stops trying to be better. Schools which join our MAT are able to help shape our work and benefit both from the support they receive and the opportunities for school improvement they are able to offer. The behaviors we expect to see are:
  - We encourage strong and capable system leaders
  - We enable our people to excel to provide outstanding education
  - We build trust and respect across our academies
  - Developing long term relationships within and across communities in which there is an opportunity for continuous improvement.

### 3.5 The core objects of the MAT are:-

a) to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which shall include:-

- Church of England Schools designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and having regard to any advice issued by the DBE
- other Academies whether with or without a designated religious character; but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England

b) To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas which the Academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need for such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition

of life of the said inhabitants subject at all times to any restrictions contained within any trusts applying to land occupied by the Company.

#### **4. DELEGATED POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 4.1 The constitution, membership and proceedings of the AC shall be as set out in Schedule 1 of this Scheme (which may be consulted upon, amended and changes notified to you from time to time following annual review). Under the MAT Articles the AC may sub-delegate powers delegated to it to an AC sub-committee as required.
- 4.2 The AC agrees to conduct the Academies' business in accordance with the system of decision making set out in Schedule 2 of this Scheme. Guidance on the overriding structure of the MAT itself can be obtained from the Chief Operating Officer.
- 4.3 The Directors will review the AC at least annually in terms of establishment, constitution and membership to ensure that its members have sufficient skills and knowledge to be an effective academy council of the Academies. This scheme will also be reviewed on an annual basis in line with paragraph 5.2.
- 4.4 The AC will review its practices on a regular basis, having regard to recommendations made by the Directors from time to time.
- 4.5 The AC shall provide such data and information regarding the business of the Academy as the Directors may reasonably require from time to time.
- 4.6 The AC shall submit to and co-operate with any inspections by Ofsted, other statutory inspectors including pursuant to section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and the DBE and the Directors, acting reasonably.
- 4.7 The AC shall work closely with and shall promptly implement any advice or recommendations made by the Directors in the event that intervention is either threatened or is carried out by the Secretary of State and the Directors expressly reserve the unfettered right to review or remove any power or responsibility conferred on the AC under this Scheme in such circumstances or in such other circumstances where the Directors deem this to be reasonably necessary in accordance with the aims and objectives of the MAT.
- 4.8 For the avoidance of doubt where any power or function of the Directors has been exercised by any committee (including any AC), that person or committee shall report to the Directors in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise



of that power or function at the meeting of the Directors immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

## **5. ANNUAL REVIEW**

5.1 This Scheme shall operate from the Effective Date in respect of the Academies.

5.2 This Scheme shall be reviewed annually by the Directors and may be amended following such review.

## SCHEDULE 1

### CONSTITUTION OF THE ACADEMY COUNCIL

1. The AC is a shared AC across the Academies Ingleton CE Primary and Gainford CE Primary and reflecting this shall comprise:-
  - at least 2 elected parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility where possible, of a registered pupil at each of the Academies overseen by the AC at the time when he or she is elected or appointed (*if there is not a parent willing to stand in a particular school, there can be 2 elected parents from the same school*)
  - at least 1 elected staff member [*or two, one from each school?*]
  - The Head Teacher
  - One ex-officio foundation member (the parish priest of the parish the academies' are situated within or another individual nominated by the relevant Archdeacon)
  - At least 2 foundation members nominated by the DDEB in consultation with the Parochial Church Council of Gainford St Mary and St John the Evangelist, Ingleton
  - Up to 5 co-opted members nominated and agreed by the other academy council members
  
3. The Directors (all or any of them) shall also be entitled to attend any meetings of the AC. Any Director attending a meeting of the AC shall not count towards the quorum for the purposes of the meeting and shall not be entitled to vote on any resolution being considered by the AC unless either of the Academies are at Operating Level 2.
  
4. All persons appointed or elected to the AC shall give a written undertaking to the Directors to uphold the objects, vision and mission of the MAT as set out in Clause 3 above.
  
5. Any AC vacancies must be notified to the MAT as soon as they arise and noted in AC minutes.