



NEWHAM COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS TRUST

NCST - SoD - Part 1: Introduction

Last updated: June 2020

**Applies to: NCST, NCST Federation, Lister Community School
Rokeby School, Sarah Bonnell School**

1. Part 1 - Introduction

Newham Community Schools Trust (referred to herein as "NCST") is a multi-academy trust and the foundation body of the NSCT Federation, a federation of schools based in Newham (together referred to as the "Trust Federation"). The Trust Federation is responsible for a number of schools:

- Lister Community School (foundation)
- Rokeby (foundation)
- Sarah Bonnell (academy)

(referred to as the "Schools").

NCST is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number 09896221) and a charity. It is not a registered charity but an "exempt" charity, regulated by the Secretary of State for Education, who acts as the principal regulator.

NCST's constitution is set out in its Articles of Association, which delegate responsibility for the governance and management of NCST to the Trustees. The constitution of NCST Federation is set out in an Instrument of Government, which acknowledges the governance responsibility of the Governing Body of the NCST Federation.

This Scheme of Delegation has been put in place by the Trustees and the Governing Body (which operates as one board of Trustee/Governors, referred to as the "Trust Board") to provide clarity as to the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the governance of the Schools with regard to:

- determining the vision and values of the Trust Federation;
- supporting leadership in determining and fulfilling the strategic direction of the Trust Federation;
- holding leadership to account;
- ensuring staff well-being; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the Trust Federation ensuring there are systems in place to manage risk and ensure money is well spent.

An overview of the governance structure is set out in the Trust Structure Diagram, which forms part of this Scheme of Delegation suite of documents.

The Members of NCST oversee the Trust Board, holding the Trustee/Governors to account and ensuring that the values and ethos of the Trust Federation are upheld and the distinctiveness of the Schools is preserved.

The Trust Board is the accountable body within the Trust Federation and is responsible for the good governance of the Trust Federation and its Schools.

The Trust Board delegates aspects of governance and the day to day oversight of school leadership in each School to a local governing body (referred to as the "Local Governing Body").

To ensure effective collaboration and the dissemination of good practice, headteachers meet as a Leadership Group and some strategic decision making responsibility is vested in this group. It is intended that this group meet regularly and made available to the Trust Board and the Chairs of Local Governing Bodies.

A Summary of Key Delegated Responsibilities is published as part of the Scheme of Delegation suite of documents.

A Leadership and Governance Decision Planner is published as part of the Scheme of Delegation suite of documents, to aid swift decision making.

This Scheme of Delegation applies to each School. Its effective date is noted on the first page and it will be reviewed from time to time by the Trust Board. Whilst the Scheme cannot take the form of a legally binding contract and is subject to the overriding duty on the Trustee/Governors to act freely and in the best interest of the Trust Federation, in so far as the Trustee/Governors are able they agree to abide by the provisions of it and will consult the Local Governing Bodies on any significant changes.

This Scheme of Delegation is formed of a number of component parts, effectively comprising a SoD suite of documents/governance and leadership handbook. By way of summary, it consists of the following:

- Part 1: Introduction
- Part 2: Governance Principles
- Part 3: Governance Structure
- Part 4: Accountability

Also included as part of this Scheme of Delegation, as separate documents, all of which form part of the overall Scheme, are the following:

- Trust Federation Structure Chart
- Trust Delegated Leadership Roles and Responsibilities Summary
- Leadership and Governance Decision Planner (including for supported schools)
- Financial Regulations Manual

Finally, the following Committee Terms of Reference are also provided as part of the Scheme:

- Local Governing Body
- Resources Committee
- Standards Committee
- Leadership Group Committee (also referred to as the Leadership Group)
- Local Governor Body: Competence and Conduct Overview
- Trust Board: Competence and Conduct Overview