



NEWHAM COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS TRUST

NCST - SoD - Part 1: Introduction

Last updated: December 2021

Applies to: NCST

1. Part 1 - Introduction

Newham Community Schools Trust (referred to herein as "NCST") is a multi-academy trust. The Trust is responsible for a number of schools, all of which are academies:

- Eastlea Community School
- Lister Community School
- Rokeby School
- Sarah Bonnell School

(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 suite of published documents which together make up this Scheme of Delegation has been put in place by the Trustees 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;
- supporting leadership in determining and fulfilling the strategic direction of the Trust;
- holding leadership to account;
- ensuring staff well-being; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the Trust 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 to account and ensuring that the values and ethos of the Trust are upheld and the distinctiveness of the Schools is preserved.

For the purposes of all Department for Education guidance, the Trust Board of NCST is the "accountable body" and is responsible for the good governance of the Trust 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, the CEO and the Headteachers of the Schools meet as an Executive Group and some strategic decision making responsibility is vested in this group. It is intended that this group meet regularly and that an overview of the decisions that it makes is made available to the Trust Board and the Chairs of Local Governing Bodies.

The published Governance and Leadership Decision Planner forms part of this Scheme of Delegation, and provides a quick reference as to the operation of NCST's Scheme of Delegation as outlined in this document suite. The Planner aims to aid swift and compliant 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 to act freely and in the best interest of the Trust, in so far as the Trustees are able, they agree to abide by the provisions of it and will consult the Local Governing Bodies on any significant changes to the Scheme which they propose to make. The Trustees have put the Scheme in place and are authorised to make changes to any of the documents of which it is made up.

This Scheme of Delegation is formed of a number of component parts, effectively comprising a SoD suite of documents/governance. 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 Structure Chart
- Leadership and Governance Decision Planner (including for supported schools)
- Financial Regulations Manual (which outlines the way in which financial decisions are made)

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

- Local Governing Body
- Resources Committee
- Standards Committee
- Executive Group
- Intervention Board
- Local Governor Body: Competence and Conduct Overview

- Trust Board: Competence and Conduct Overview

The Trust Board may, as per the Articles of Association, establish any additional committee. Any such additional committee will have a dedicated Terms of Reference, which will in turn form part of this Scheme of Delegation and will be published accordingly.