

Achieving excellence together

Governance at Great Heights Academy Trust and its MAT schools is informed at all times by the latest version of DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework; and complies with ESFA's Academies Financial Handbook, as updated.

Our governance structures and people involved currently are summarised below, with Trustee 'pen pictures' (areas of expertise/specialism) in an accompanying document.

The MAT Board (comprising ten "Trustees") are directors of the company and trustees of the exempt charity. The Chair of the MAT leads the Board, manages the business, provides leadership (alongside the CEO) for the MAT as a whole and is accountable for the vision, supporting the CEO when the MAT is held to account. The Trust also has five "Members" who have 'eyes on, hands off' roles, similar to shareholders of a business. Members take the lead in filling any vacancies on the Board, referring to the Competency Framework and skills gaps (procurement, communications, legal etc).

The levels of delegation (top down) are:

Level 0: Members

Level 1: Board of Trustees

Level 2: Chief Executive Officer

Level 3: Academy Principal / Head of Designation

Level 4: Academy Council (LGB)

Members¹

Alex Griffiths (Chair of Members)
 Carlton Midgley
 Graham Newton
 Peta Cocker (new Member, appointed 17.1.19)
 John Flynn (new Member, appointed 24.1.19)

Board of Trustees¹

Carlton Midgley (Chair, MAT Board of Trustees)
 Amanda Bennett (CEO)
 Dr Angela Birt
 James Fryer (re-appointed May 2019, for 4 years)
 Ken Inwood (Chair of Standards) (appointed 4.12.18, for 4 years)
 Jackie Nellis (appointed 4.12.18, for 4 years)
 John Midgley (Chair of Finance) (appointed 17.1.19, for 4 years)
 Emily Flaxman
 Illy Jaffar
 James Power } (new Trustees; appointed June 2020, for a 6 month period initially - to be reviewed in December 2020)

¹ Dr N Oliver, Secretary to the Members and Clerk to the Board of Trustees has been involved with the administration of governance at Greetland since being appointed in a recruitment exercise in May 2001; he provides a link on behalf of Trustees to Governor Support (and Clerks Network) at Calderdale MBC.

Finance (including Premises) Committee

Chair of Finance, J Midgley

- *provides assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, financial systems internal and operational controls, including Audit Committee responsibilities.*
- *other than where specified, a non-delegated committee to provide information to the Trust Board concerning finance and premises issues to ensure appropriate planning, monitoring, probity, risk management and internal control systems.*

Local Governing Bodies – Greetland, West Vale, Raynville & Carlinghow

- *Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) have been formed according to a bespoke version of the NGA scheme of delegation (Model 2**, Version 2): ‘Academy Council’, with powers only to advise and recommend, not decide. Parents (Parent Local Governors) are elected at the LGB level, i.e. not to the MAT Board. The interim Academy Council memberships at West Vale and Raynville remained ‘as is’ (i.e. prior to conversion) subject to further review and skills audit:*

[West Vale Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Calderdale)

[Raynville Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Leeds)

[Carlinghow Academy](#) (Kirklees)

Greetland Local Governing Body (inaugural meeting 12th February 2019):

Graham Newton – Chair (Community Governor & Member of the Trust)

Helen Crowther – Principal

Captain Steve Bennett (Parent, elected 20th December 2018)

Gina Walsh (Parent, elected 20th December 2018)

Paul Buckley (Community Governor)

E Austwick (Staff Governor)

**<https://www.governor.support/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/NGA-Model-2-Scheme-of-Delegation-Academy-Councils.pdf>

The MAT Board Terms of Reference are available in a separate document - to be read in conjunction with the Scheme of Delegation; Code of Practice; Conflicts of Interest Policy; and MAT Finance & Premises Committee Terms of Reference.

“The Academy Trust must take full control of its affairs, and apply, and be in compliance with, the letter and spirit of its accountability framework (set out in the Governance Handbook and the Academies Financial Handbook, as updated periodically). The Board of Trustees manages the business and exercises all the powers of the Academy Trust.”

The remit of Members is as set out in 5.2.1 of DfE’s Governance Handbook 2019.

Background

The inaugural meeting of the MAT Board was held on 25th January 2018 (minutes available on the [MAT website](#)). Proposals for the Trust’s MAT governance structures, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities were initially set out in:

“MAT ‘pitch’ booklet 2015/2016”

www.greetlandacademy.org.uk/calderdale/primary/greetland/web/matbooklet-greetlandws.pdf

A [MAT Business Plan 2020/21](#) is available. The Trust re-branded to ‘Great Heights Academy Trust’ in Summer 2020. N Oliver, Clerk October 2020