

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

ATTENDANCE & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Information on attendance and governance summarised below is extracted partly from the Annual Report & Accounts 2020-21. The Articles of Association allow for a minimum of three Members (to not include staff) and up to ten Trustees appointed by Members for a four year period. The Board of Trustees met formally six times during the year. Attendance at Board meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Carlton Midgley (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	6	6
J Fryer	5	6
K Inwood	6	6
J Midgley	6	6
J Nellis	4	6
A Birt	5	6
*E Brooke	5	6
*I Jaffar	5	6
*J Power	6	6

*During the 2020-21 period, the Trust Board continued to review its membership and skill set and was pleased to recruit three new Trustees who bring the particular skills of: legal, marketing and procurement to the Board. This takes the number of Trustees to the maximum ten.

Governance

The Board receives reports on the performance of the Trust from the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer. The scope of these reports includes: performance against trust objectives; impact of the pandemic, including attendance; School Improvement assessments; risk management including Safeguarding; financial performance, including management accounts; statutory compliance; HR activities & performance management; and, guidance from ESFA and NGA.

In addition to attending Board meetings, Trustees have further engaged to inform their view of the Trust via shadowing (for context) School Improvement Partner visits; meetings with the CEO, COO, CFO on particular aspects of focus e.g. Standards reporting and Management Accounts reporting including budget setting. Management Accounts are sent to the Chair and Chair of Finance each month. In order to help fulfil its duties, the Board has appointed a Finance and Premises Committee and a Standards Committee; plus Local Governing Bodies at each of its five constituent academies.

Finance and Premises / Standards Committees[#]	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer)	3 / 3	3 / 3
C Midgley (Chair of Trustees)	3 / 3	3 / 3
John Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	3 / -	3 / -
J Fryer	3 / -	3 / -
E Brooke	2 / -	3 / -
J Power	3 / -	3 / -
Kenneth Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)	- / 4	- / 4
J Nellis	- / 3	- / 4
A Birt	- / 4	- / 4
I Jaffar	- / 4	- / 4

[#]N.B. Attendance at LGB Committee meetings is reported separately on individual academy websites.

As the guardians of its governance, Members sit at the top of the Trust's governance structure. Draft minutes of Board meetings are now circulated twice Termly - for Members to be kept informed about trust business, so they can be assured the Trust Board is exercising quality and effective governance.

The Trust Board reconstituted on 25 January 2018, as the Trust moved from a single academy trust to a multi-academy trust. Members and Trustees have continued to review their structures, including that of their Local Governing Body committees. As a result, in Autumn Term 2018, the Trust increased the number of Members to five and restructured membership at Member and Trustee level to introduce separation of representation across the two levels, in accordance with Academy Trust Handbook best practice. Parent governor membership is provided by the now five Local Governing Bodies, each with two community governors, two staff governors and two parent governors.

In Summer Term 2021, the Chair undertook a skills audit of Trustees and self-review of the Trust. Analysis of the evaluation, based on DfE's "A Competency Framework for Governance", shows that Trustees judge that the Board is effective overall. Trustees were asked to rate their judgement in six key areas (28 statements): "good", "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" - as they applied to the Trust: 26 ratings were more good than satisfactory, 2 more satisfactory than good, and none unsatisfactory.