

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## ATTENDANCE & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Information on attendance and governance summarised below is extracted partly from the Annual Report & Accounts 2021-22. 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. During 2021-22, membership of the Trust Board has been stable with no changes in its constitution. The Board met formally six times during the year; 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	4	6
K Inwood	5	6
J Midgley	6	6
J Nellis	5	6
A Birt	4	6
E Brooke	4	6
I Jaffar	5	6
J Power	3	6

### Governance

At each of its meetings, the Board has received reports on the performance of the Trust from the CEO, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer. The scope of these reports has included: performance against trust objectives; impact of the pandemic, including attendance focus; School Improvement assessments; risk management including Safeguarding; financial performance, including management accounts; statutory compliance actions; and HR activities and performance management. The Trust Board also receives correspondence and guidance from ESFA.

In addition to attendance at 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 monthly). In order to help fulfil its duties, the Board has appointed a Finance and Premises Committee; a Standards Committee; and Local Governing Bodies at each of the constituent academies. J Midgley, who is a qualified accountant and Director at a large international audit firm, is Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee. At its meetings, Finance and Premises Committee considers: strategic financial priorities; Management Accounts; three year budget setting; audit and internal control reports; funding updates; Key Performance Indicators.

Finance and Premises / Standards Committees <sup>#</sup>	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer)	4 / 3	4 / 3
C Midgley (Chair of Trustees)	4 / 3	4 / 3
John Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	4 / -	4 / -
J Fryer	3 / -	4 / -
E Brooke	1 / -	4 / -
J Power	2 / -	4 / -
Ken Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)	- / 3	- / 3
J Nellis	- / 2	- / 3
A Birt	- / 3	- / 3
I Jaffar	- / 2	- / 3

<sup>#</sup>N.B. Attendance at LGB Committee meetings is reported separately on individual academy websites.

### Governance reviews

The Trust Board reconstituted on 25 January 2018, as the Trust moved from a single academy trust to a multi academy trust on 1 March 2018. In addition, Members and Trustees have continued to review their structures, including that of the Local Governing Bodies. 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 duties across the two levels, in accordance with Academy Trust Handbook best practice. Parent governor membership is provided by Local Governing Bodies, each with two community governors, two staff governors and two parents.

In 2020-2021, the Chair of Trustees began a three part self-review of the Trust Board. The second part (undertaken in 2022) was a review of the Chair's leadership, using a framework based on two others currently in use – one from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service and one from North Yorkshire County Council. The framework consisted of 12 statements and trustees were asked to rate their level of agreement with each statement - with a judgement of strongly agree (score = 4), agree (3), disagree (2) or strongly disagree (1), as they applied to the Chair of Great Heights Academy Trust. Of the 12 statements, 9 were more 'strongly agree' than 'agree' and 3 were more 'agree' than 'strongly agree'. The average score (out of 4) was 3.63, which is 'strong' within the framework.