

Achieving excellence together

Governance at Great Heights Academy Trust and its 2-18 MAT schools is informed at all times by the latest version of DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework; and complies with ESFA's Academy Trust 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 up to five "Members" who have 'eyes on, hands off' roles, similar to shareholders of a business. The responsibility of Members includes taking the lead in filling any vacancies on the Board with reference to the Competency Framework and skills gaps.

Great Heights Academy Trust's governance layers (top down) are:

Members

Board of Trustees (all Trust-appointed)

Executive Team

Academy Principal

Designation Responsibility

Academy Committee (LGB)

Designation Strategic Board

Members¹

Carlton Midgley

Peta Cocker (appointed 17.1.19; Chair)

John Flynn (appointed 24.1.19)

Kay Brennan (appointed 12.12.22)

(former Members: G Newton, resigned July 2022; A Griffiths, resigned December 2020)

Board of Trustees¹

Carlton Midgley (Chair, MAT Board) (re-appointed January 2022, for 4 yrs)

Jackie Nellis (Vice Chair) (re-appointed December 2022, for 4 years)

Amanda Bennett OBE (CEO)

Dr Angela Birt (re-appointed January 2022, for 4 years)

James Fryer (re-appointed May 2019, for 4 years)

Kenneth Inwood (Chair of Standards) (re-appointed December 2022, for 4 yrs)

John Midgley (Chair of Finance) (re-appointed January 2023, for 4 years)

Emily Brooke
Illy Jaffar
James Power } ('new' Trustees recruited June 2020, for 6 months initially;
confirmed by Trust Members December 2020, for 4 years)

¹ The Governance professional is Dr N Oliver (Secretary to the Members and Clerk to the MAT Board). Dr Oliver has administered governance at Greetland since being appointed in a recruitment exercise in 2001 and provides a link on behalf of Trustees to governance support organisations locally / nationally.

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 and risk 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 Body committees at Great Heights Academy Trust schools

- *Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) were formed initially according to a bespoke version of NGA's** 'Guidance on schemes of delegation for academy trusts', with a role to "monitor, review and communicate". Parents are elected at LGB level, LGB committees are subject to ongoing review and skills audit and the Trust operates LGBs to a model of 6 Governors and a common standard of reporting.*
- *In keeping with DfE's Schools White Paper (2022) "all trusts should have local governance arrangements", GHAT's local governance implementation strategy (May 2022) now includes a disaggregated LGB scheme of delegation, renewed terms of reference, an LGB Handbook and Ofsted-related Governance Guides. LGB Terms of Office are appended to this document (see below). The GHAT Scheme of Delegation was reviewed comprehensively in February 2023.*

[Greetland Local Governing Body](#) (inaugural academy; first met February 2019):

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

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

[Carlinghow Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

[Bowling Green Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Calderdale)

[Marsden Junior School Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

[The Mirfield Free Grammar Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

**<https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Governance-structure-roles-and-responsibilities/Academy-trusts/Scheme-of-delegation.aspx>
(November 2020)

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 Academy Trust 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 by DfE & ESFA, reinforced by GHAT's own Scheme of Delegation, February 2023; NGA's "The role of members", 2021; and Browne Jacobson guidance re. Fiduciary duties, 2020.

Background

Proposals for MAT governance structures, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities were initially set out in a 'pitch' booklet 2015/16. The inaugural meeting of the Trust's MAT Board was held on 25th January 2018 (minutes available on the [MAT website](#)).

A [Stakeholder Overview \(Business Plan\)](#) is available.

The Trust re-branded to 'Great Heights Academy Trust' in Summer 2020.

N Oliver, Governance Professional (March 2023)

LGB Terms of Office (GHAT)

Name	Type	Start Date	Expiry Date
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Bowling Green

Ken Inwood	Chair	16.03.21	15.03.25
Thomas Andrews	Staff Gov	30.11.21	29.11.25
Paul Miller	Community	12.11.21	11.11.25
Laura Wood	Parent	21.10.19	20.10.23
Andrew Grime	Parent	19.10.19	18.10.23

Carlinghow

Diane McConnell	Chair	15.10.20	14.10.24		
Steve Evans	Community	15.10.20		Left 05.10.22	
Alison Ley	Community	15.10.20	14.10.24		
John Flynn	Community	15.10.20	14.10.24		
Steph Lamb	Parent	23.1.23	22.1.27		
Nafeesa Soibhan Limbada-Glennie	Parent	29.11.21	14.10.24		

Raynville

Louise Harrison	Staff	28.06.22	27.06.26		
Neil Carrington	Parent	27.05.22	26.05.26		
Vinay Shukla	Parent	16.02.22	15.03.26		
Daniel Whieldon	Community	01.01.21	31.12.24		
Steve Evans	Community	06.10.22			
Sarah Tulip	Ex Chair			Left 28.03.22	
Leanne Potter	Ex Chair			Left 14.08.22	

The Greetland Academy

Peta Cocker	Chair	01.09.22	31.08.26		
Paul Buckley	Community			Left 31.08.22	
Elizabeth Austwick	Staff	18.01.19	17.01.23		
Gina Walsh	Parent	19.12.22	18.12.26		
Steve Bennett	Parent	19.12.22	18.12.26		
Peter Graham Newton	Chair			Left 22.07.22	

West Vale Academy

Deborah Shutter	Chair	27.1.23	26.1.27		
James Power	Chair			Left 26.1.23	
Illy Jaffar	Community	03.02.21	02.02.25		
Hollie Mangan	Parent			Left 30.6.22	