

GUILDFORD DIOCESE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN EDUCATIONAL TRUST (GDET)

Terms of Reference

Membership

GDET is a charitable company formed by the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) to act as the legal entity on behalf of the DBE. The Trust acts as a sub-committee of the DBE.

A member of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) will chair the meetings

Appointment of trustees

Appointments will be made in accordance with GDET's Articles of Association as follows:

'The Trustees

The subscribers to the Memorandum (being the first Members) are also the first Trustees. All future Members (being duly nominated by the Diocesan Board of Education) shall also be Trustees and these shall be the only Members.

The Trustees when complete consist of at least three and not more than seven individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects and of whom a majority should be current members of the Diocesan Board of Education. '

DBE officers in attendance

- the Diocesan Director of Education will attend
- the GDET Lead Officer will attend and convene, the meetings

Frequency of meetings

Meetings will be held at least three times a year on a termly basis. The Trustees will use e-mail to agree and confirm the appointment of Members to Church MATs between meetings if necessary.

GDET Remit and scope

GDET was set up by the Diocesan Board of Education in response to the academy programme and must operate within the Objects (which are broad) of its Articles of Association.

The current focus of its activities will be set within the following Objects:

2.1 to be a corporate member of each Church of England Academy in the Diocese or elsewhere and in that capacity to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that statutory inspections take place as required by Education Acts, support improvement and transformation of standards and require accountability to the members of each Church of England Academy in respect both of ethos and of standards.

2.2 to exercise towards such Academies such powers, responsibilities and duties as the Diocesan Board of Education may from time to time determine.

GDET's main functions are therefore to:

- appoint (and, if necessary, remove) Members to MATs within the Diocese
- as a corporate Member, carry out oversight of academy boards, challenging where necessary
- ensure the Christian character of the church academies within each trust is promoted

These functions are achieved by each MAT using the relevant model articles which set out the basis on which GDET has the power to act through the role of its Members in ensuring compliance with the articles (and the church supplemental agreement).

It is therefore a key part of GDET's role to ensure that Members are equipped, supported, developed and encouraged in their role. GDET will therefore continue its work in providing resources and training to members to enable them to provide appropriate oversight and challenge to academy boards and of equipping directors of MATs to ensure that the Christian character of church academies is promoted.

Delegated powers from the DBE

- to scrutinize and evaluate the merger proposals of Church MATs using the DBE's merger criteria and make recommendations to the DB
- to appoint as Members and directors of MATs those with the appropriate skills, knowledge, principles and personal attributes and a commitment to the Christian ethos of church schools, notifying the DBE of new appointments. (Consent to the appointment of co-opted directors can only be made by the Board of Education or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf.)
- to design and implement a programme of induction and on-going training to equip Members of academy trusts in their oversight of academy trust boards including through Annual General Meetings.
- to carry out an annual assessment of the impact of Members' work in holding the directors of academy trusts to account.

Recommendations and reporting to the DBE

- an annual report to the DBE summarising the performance of academy trusts of which diocesan schools are members including how the Christian character of church schools in the trusts is promoted
- a termly report summarising the activities of GDET and identifying key issues which may have policy implications for the DBE
- making available GDET's annual report and accounts to the DBE

March 2025