



# Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Academy Standards and Improvement Committee of the Governing Body

## Academy Standards and Improvement Committee (ASIC) – Terms of Reference

### Preamble

The governors of the Academy Trust have a clearly expressed ambition for all schools within the Academy Trust to become outstanding:

*'All governors are passionate, enthusiastic and proactive about improving outcomes for pupils and in ensuring that the Academy makes a positive contribution to the life and learning of all in its communities.'*

Equally, the Chief Executive and his team have developed and implemented an Academy Trust Strategic Plan with a vision to:

*'Develop a culture of learning, success, high expectations, aspiration, challenge, and inclusion in all aspects of school life to encourage life-long aspiration. This is reflected through the curriculum, the leadership and daily practices of pupils and staff, aspiring to be compassionate global citizens with a sense of community and social responsibility.'*

### Membership

The Academy Standards and Improvement Committee (henceforth **ASIC**) will comprise six Governors including the Chief Executive. All members are entitled to vote. The Governing Body appoints the Governor members of the Committee. The Chief Executive is an ex-officio appointment. The Chair of Governors is invited to attend all Committee meetings and is entitled to vote.

The Principals of each of the Academy Schools will be in attendance as required. The School Improvement Partner(s) (SIP(s)) may be in attendance, as may be representatives from the Diocesan Education Team.

### Chair

The **ASIC** will be chaired by a member elected annually from the Governors. In the Chair's absence, the Committee will be chaired by a Vice-Chair elected from the Governors for the meeting.

### Quorum

The quorum will be three Governors.

### Reporting

The **ASIC** reports to the Governing Body of The Academy Trust. The minutes of the Committee will be a standing item on every scheduled meeting of the Governing Body. A copy of the latest minutes will be distributed with each Governing Body agenda.

### Meetings

The **ASIC** will meet at least four times per academic year, twice in the autumn term and once each in the spring and summer terms. The committee may elect to meet more

frequently when required. Minutes shall be taken at every meeting of the committee. The minutes shall be taken by the Clerk to the Governors. The minutes of the previous meeting shall be distributed with each agenda, and, if agreed as a correct record, signed by the Chair of the Committee.

### **Review of Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference of the **ASIC** will be reviewed annually by the Committee, with any recommendations sent to the next available Governing Body meeting for ratification.

### **Responsibilities**

The **ASIC**, on behalf of the Governing Body, holds the Executive Leadership Team and the Senior Leadership of the phases to account by ensuring that the Academy Trust has a clear strategic drive and common purpose and that it:

1. Rigorously monitors the quality of teaching across all phases to meet its targets for “good or better teaching”.
2. Follows a curriculum that meets the needs of its learners and pays due heed to national expectations and the National Curricula for all phases;
3. Meets and exceeds its academic aspirations and targets for learners;
4. Meets and improves its “Behaviour for Learning” standards;
5. Monitors target-setting, mentoring, monitoring and evaluation processes;
6. Reviews and develops policies delegated to the Committee by the Governing Body;
7. Enables the special educational needs of children, particularly those identified as vulnerable, to be met.
8. Coordinates, oversees and monitors the Academy’s cycle of improvement, identifying and delivering support and challenge as appropriate.
9. Supports effective communication between the governing body and the leadership teams to engender collective responsibility for the continuous improvement of standards.

### **Governor Training**

It is the responsibility of Governors to attend courses relevant to their role on the Committee.