



## The Willow Learning Trust Scheme of Delegation September 2022

Our MAT has three levels of governance: Members, Trustees and Governors. Members can be regarded as the equivalent to shareholders in a commercial company and Trustees are the equivalent of company directors. Academy Trust boards provide strategic leadership and oversight for the academies within the Trust and are responsible for providing accountability for the overall performance of all Trust academies and the educational outcomes for all groups of pupils. This responsibility and accountability may not be delegated, but the Board may delegate powers and duties to other bodies. Governors are expected to only serve on one LGB of the Trust to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

This Scheme of Delegation shows where powers and responsibilities are delegated to the different bodies involved in the governance and operation of The Willow Learning Trust and its academies. While the Scheme is designed to be comprehensive it will not cover every task. The Scheme will be reviewed in the summer term of 2024 or sooner in the case of significant change.

The bodies comprise:

- Trust Members
- Trust Board of Directors
- CEO (Accounting Officer)
- Trust Finance, Premises and Audit Committee
- Trust Personnel Committee
- Trust Standards Committee
- Local Governing Bodies
- Headteachers of individual academies

<p><b>Members (5)</b> No term of Office. 2 meetings a year. Meeting dates and times to be agreed to meet statutory responsibilities.</p>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p>
<p>Jan Wright Robert Frogley David Cheesman Janet Driels Sue Stears</p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the strategic vision, ethos, values and objectives of the Trust</li> <li>• Approve any amendments required to the Funding agreement or Articles of Association</li> <li>• Appoint or remove Trust Members</li> <li>• Appoint or remove Trustees in accordance with Articles</li> <li>• Overview of governance arrangements and structure</li> <li>• Hold an Annual AGM and call general meetings where required</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint External Auditors</li> <li>• Remove External Auditors</li> <li>• Receive and approve the Audited Accounts</li> <li>• Adopt Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement</li> <li>• Adopt and comply with Academy Trust Handbook</li> </ul>

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Board of Trustees (10: 7+3 co-opted) (ToO: 4 years) 4 meetings a year, meeting at 4.00pm on Mondays.	Responsibilities
<p><b>Chair:</b> Simon Brown  <b>Vice Chair:</b> Tom Magill  <b>Chair of Finance, Audit &amp; Premises:</b> Grant Stonell  <b>Chair of Standards:</b> Marilyn Holness  <b>Chair of Personnel:</b> Simon Brown  <b>Trustee:</b> Stephan Cook, Dayo Balogun  <b>CEO &amp; Accounting Officer:</b> Steve Hume</p> <p><b>Co-opted Trustees (Chairs of LGBs):</b>            Laura Dalton (GHS)            Isabelle Paget (Aragon)            Mark Rosewell (Abbey)</p> <p><b>Governance Professional:</b>            Alyson Chan</p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the strategic vision, ethos, values and objectives of the Trust</li> <li>• Identify and consider opportunities to expand the Trust</li> <li>• Identify and approve the statutory policies which apply across all the Trust's schools</li> <li>• Hold CEO to account for the educational performance and financial probity of schools in the MAT and for ensuring that each school manages appraisal according to the WLT Appraisal Policy</li> <li>• Establish an independent Audit and Risk committee to achieve internal scrutiny to cover both financial and non-financial controls which meets 3 times per year.</li> <li>• Maintain and Monitor a Trust risk register</li> <li>• Agree an annual written scheme of delegation for governance functions: financial powers, governance and legal direction with robust internal control arrangements.</li> <li>• Establish Trust committees, including LGBs, and receive reports from each committee</li> <li>• Appointment of Governance Professional</li> <li>• Remove the Chair or Vice-Chair of a Local Governing Body</li> <li>• Remove Governors in accordance with WLT procedures</li> <li>• Agree appointments of co-opted Governors to the LGB</li> <li>• Recommend appointment of Trustees to Trust Board</li> <li>• Approve adoption of WLT Business and Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Appoint or remove co-opted Directors from the Board</li> </ul> <p><b>Personnel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance management of the Chief Executive Officer and Headteachers through the CEO.</li> <li>• Appoint the Chief Executive Officer as Accounting Officer.</li> <li>• Appoint the Director of Finance as the Chief Financial Officer.</li> <li>• Ratify Chief Executive Officer Terms and Conditions (including pay) and appointment</li> <li>• Dismiss a Headteacher or the Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>• Set up Panel for Stage 4 Complaints</li> </ul> <p><b>Compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt and comply with Academy Trust Handbook</li> <li>• Approve the Audited accounts</li> <li>• Agree Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement</li> <li>• Identify and propose any amendments required to the Funding agreement or Articles of Association</li> <li>• Hold at least 3 Board meetings each academic year</li> <li>• Maintain minutes of, and papers considered at, meetings of the Board/ governing body/ committees maintained</li> <li>• Determining Trust Board meeting frequency and agendas</li> <li>• Prevent establishment of extremism and or political indoctrination and ensure the balanced treatment of any issue</li> <li>• Complete a Register of Interests at the start of each academic year and ensure it is updated as is required over the course of the year</li> <li>• Accountable for the compliance to GDPR</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish on the Trust/School website a summary of the register of interests</li> </ul> <p><b>Admissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Admission Policies for each academy based on recommendations from the LGBs</li> <li>• Consider PAN for MAT schools, based on the recommendation of the LGBs</li> <li>• Request specific admissions issues are discussed and addressed at LGB level</li> </ul> <p><b>Appeal Panel members:</b> D Balogun, S Brown, S Cook, M Holness, T Magill, I Paget, L Dalton, Mark Rosewell, G Stonell</p>
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<p><b>Finance, Premises and Audit Committee</b></p> <p><i>This committee will also act as an Audit and Risk committee</i></p>	<p><b>Responsibilities (4 Trustees, LGB representatives (max 3) + 1 advisor + Headteachers)</b></p> <p><b>Data Protection Link Trustee: Simon Brown</b>  <b>Health &amp; Safety Link Trustee: Simon Brown</b></p>
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<p><b>Chair:</b> Grant Stonell  <b>Trustees:</b> Tom Magill, Dayo Balogun  <b>LGB Members:</b> Kevin Mohr (GHS), Prashant Maharshi (Aragon), Sarah Seal (Abbey)  <b>CEO:</b> Steve Hume</p> <p><b>Advisors:</b>  <b>Chair of Trustees:</b> Simon Brown  <b>Directors of Finance:</b> Jennie Goodall  <b>GHS HT:</b> Sarah Peacock  <b>ABB HT:</b> Andrea Stirling Williams  <b>ARA HT:</b> Clare Ryder</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor performance of Trust Budgets and scrutinise individual school budgets through monthly monitoring reports</li> <li>• Monitor expenditure and value for money and the delivery and performance of shared services</li> <li>• Consider and approve central charge and budget, and school budgets</li> <li>• Approve the financial implications of staffing structures</li> <li>• Ratify individual school budget plans</li> <li>• Authorise in-year revisions to an approved school budget</li> <li>• Approve 3-year budget plans to inform budget forecast return</li> <li>• Approve an Annual Budget Forecast Return and submit to the ESFA by the deadline (BFRO)</li> <li>• Approve a 3-year Budget Forecast Return and submit to the ESFA by the deadline (BFR)</li> <li>• Contribute to Trust long-term financial planning through consideration of financial priorities and use of any contingency fund/balances.</li> <li>• Appoint a person responsible for Internal Scrutiny.</li> <li>• Review and approve Tendering policy, Reserves policy, Governor Allowance policy and Fixed Asset policy</li> <li>• Monitor SCITT budget and finances</li> <li>• Approve contracts over £10,000</li> <li>• Authorise the advertising and awarding of tenders worth £50,000+</li> <li>• Authorise disposal of fixed assets above £1000</li> <li>• Review and approve any Condition Improvement Funding bids</li> <li>• Review and approve programme of internal scrutiny</li> <li>• Receive regular reports from internal scrutiny</li> <li>• Contingency planning</li> </ul> <p><u>Audit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct the Trust's programme of internal scrutiny and security and report to the board on the adequacy of the Trust's financial and other controls,</li> </ul>
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	<p>and management of risk to make sure that they are being appropriately addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek any information required from the independent reviewer, the external auditor (including oversight of), Governors, Committees and Trust employees;</li> <li>• Monitor the risks of fraud, bribery and corruption</li> <li>• Review and Approve Whistleblowing Policy</li> </ul> <p><u>Premises</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Approve WLT Premises Framework Policy to include framework for H&amp;S procedures, critical incident procedures and lockdown procedures</li> <li>• Monitor impact of the policy and response to H&amp;S concerns and issues across WLT schools</li> <li>• Oversee building plans and contracts related to any Condition Improvement Funding bids or premises works</li> <li>• Monitor the compliance of GDPR within WLT schools</li> <li>• Review accessibility priorities for all WLT schools</li> <li>• Procure new buildings and development of existing site and major new commitments</li> <li>• Monitor and review outstanding actions from H&amp;S audits at Trust schools</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Personnel Committee</b> 4 meetings a year, meeting at 9.15am on Mondays.</p>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b> <b>(5 Trustees, LGB representatives (max 3) + 2 advisors + Headteachers)</b></p> <p><b>Safeguarding Link Trustee: Simon Brown</b></p>
<p><b>Chair:</b> Simon Brown <b>Trustees:</b> Isabelle Paget, Marilyn Holness, Laura Dalton <b>LGB Members:</b> Mark Rosewell (Abbey) <b>CEO:</b> Steve Hume</p> <p><b>GHS HT:</b> Sarah Peacock <b>ABB HT:</b> Andrea Stirling Williams <b>ARA HT:</b> Clare Ryder</p> <p><b>Advisors:</b> <b>HR Manager:</b> Sam Pennelli <b>SCITT:</b> Kate Potts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish WLT pay policies for all staff</li> <li>• Agree appraisal policy for teachers and other staff</li> <li>• Establish WLT capability/disciplinary/grievance/absence procedures</li> <li>• Establish WLT recruitment, appointment and employment policies and procedures</li> <li>• Review and Approve Trust Complaints policy and procedures and monitor and review complaints</li> <li>• Set and monitor WLT shadow staffing structures</li> <li>• Monitor SCITT outcomes and developments</li> <li>• Oversee safeguarding across the Trust and receive outstanding actions from safeguarding audits</li> <li>• Ratify the grade, salary range and title of any new SLT or equivalent post and review posts when vacancies arise</li> <li>• Consider and approve recommendations to award recruitment and retention incentives or to offer rewards for exceptional performance and significant contribution to trust/school priorities</li> <li>• Run Chief Executive Officer recruitment exercise and recommend appointment</li> <li>• Run (in conjunction with LGB) Headteacher recruitment process and recommend appointment*</li> <li>• Determine dismissal payments/early retirement or redundancy payments for CEO/HT</li> <li>• Annually review staff wellbeing trends in Trust schools</li> <li>• Annual review of Staff CPD across the Trust</li> </ul>

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<b>Standards Committee</b> 4 meetings a year, meeting at 11.15am on Mondays.	<b>Responsibilities</b> <b>(4 Trustees, LGB representatives (max 3) + Headteachers)</b>
<p><b>Chair:</b> Marilyn Holness  <b>Trustees:</b> Stephan Cook, Mark Rosewell  <b>LGB Members:</b> Trevor Knight (GHS), Amanda Curl (Aragon)  <b>CEO:</b> Steve Hume</p> <p><b>GHS HT:</b> Sarah Peacock  <b>ABB HT:</b> Andrea Stirling Williams  <b>ARA HT:</b> Clare Ryder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and review WLT schools' self-evaluation forms to ensure they accurately reflect the position of the schools</li> <li>• Review any action plans to address issues raised by Ofsted or any school improvement visit.</li> <li>• Approve application of National Curriculum or any variations to it having regard to resources and the flexibility available to Schools and in the curriculum</li> <li>• Set out a vision statement</li> <li>• Review aligned curriculum</li> <li>• Monitor and review IT provision and security across the Trust</li> <li>• Approve WLT targets for progress and achievement</li> <li>• Scrutinise whole-school standards in progress and achievement of pupils against Trust targets</li> <li>• Analysis and evaluation of exam results in context of national performance indicators.</li> <li>• Ensure all Trust schools are adhering to the WLT overarching Equalities policy</li> </ul>

<b>CEO: Steve Hume</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<p><b>CEO</b> is also Accounting Officer and sits on the Board of Trustees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver the vision and objectives for the WLT</li> <li>• Lead strategic school improvement of schools in the Trust, working with the Headteachers to ensure that all WLT schools are working to the highest expectations and academic standards</li> <li>• Monitor processes for school improvement and a drive for excellence in every school;</li> <li>• Conduct the performance management of the Headteachers;</li> <li>• In conjunction with the HTs, to grow 'future leaders' through modelling, coaching, and involving them in higher level strategic planning and shared leadership;</li> <li>• Fulfil the role of Accounting Officer for the Trust.</li> <li>• Liaise with Trustees agreeing agendas with Chairs and arrange all Trust meetings.</li> <li>• Lead the central Trust team, who are responsible for core Trust functions of performance monitoring and managing centrally-provided support services.</li> </ul>

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Aragon LGB	Reviewed Responsibilities (9 members: 4 community, 2 parents, 3 staff)
<p><b>Chair:</b> Isabelle Paget <b>Vice-Chair:</b> Terry Daniels</p> <p><b>Community Governors:</b> Jamie Bailey, Bradley Coupar, Isabelle Paget, Terry Daniels</p> <p><b>Parent Governors:</b> Gemma Fromage-Crawford, Prashant Maharshi</p> <p><b>Staff Governors:</b> Adrian Hennessy, Amanda Curl</p> <p><b>Headteacher:</b> Clare Ryder</p> <p><b>Governance Professional:</b> Alyson Chan</p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the strategic vision, ethos, values and objectives within the overarching strategic vision and aims of the Trust.</li> <li>• Appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Local Governing Body</li> <li>• Request removal of Governors in accordance with WLT procedures</li> <li>• Request addition of co-opted governors to the LGB</li> <li>• Agree committee terms of reference and review annually</li> <li>• Appoint or remove associate members at LGB</li> <li>• Hold at least 3 full governing body meetings each academic year</li> <li>• Effectively listen to the views of pupils and parents/carers</li> <li>• Monitor effectiveness of Community/Stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Discharge the SEND, pupil premium, health and safety, safeguarding and equality duties</li> <li>• Maintain minutes of, and papers considered at, meetings of the governing body/ committees maintained</li> <li>• Report termly to Trust Board</li> <li>• Determining LGB meeting frequency and agendas</li> <li>• Set up a structure of governor link responsibilities</li> <li>• Set up monitoring visits to the school for H&amp;S, safeguarding, SEND and other links as appropriate</li> <li>• Ensuring the school is prepared for new educational developments and initiatives and is OFSTED ready</li> <li>• Receive termly reports from the Headteacher</li> </ul> <p><b>Compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent establishment of extremism and or political indoctrination and ensure the balanced treatment of any issue</li> <li>• Monitor school-specific equality duties</li> <li>• Receive annual SEND, Pupil Premium (PP), Looked After Children and Safeguarding reports to monitor impact of provision and sign off</li> <li>• Review and approve the school policies related to responsibilities within the Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Complete a Register of Interests at the start of each academic year and ensure it is updated as is required over the course of the year</li> <li>• Monitor safeguarding provision and approve Safeguarding and Child Protection policy</li> <li>• Receive termly updates on Safeguarding</li> <li>• Monitor and review annual safeguarding audit</li> <li>• Support children with Medical Conditions</li> </ul> <p><b>Pupil Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the behaviour policy for the school</li> <li>• Monitor application of a school's behaviour policy, use of exclusions, bullying and discriminatory incidents</li> <li>• Review permanent and fixed term exclusions as per current guidance</li> <li>• Determine if a permanently excluded pupil should be reinstated</li> <li>• Set up and appoint governors for pupil discipline panels if required</li> </ul> <p><b>Attendance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and evaluate attendance levels, including persistent absence</li> </ul>

**Operations**

- Ensure a school meets the 380 sessions in a school year and 32.5 hours per school week
- Recommend any changes to school hours, terms and holidays for Board approval
- Review and approve a charging and remissions policy for activities
- Review school uniform policy
- Review and Approve Educational Visits policy and approve risk assessments for residential, hazardous or foreign trips
- Review and approve school residential trips
- Receive termly reports from the Headteacher

**Curriculum, Teaching & Learning**

- Review and oversee curriculum provision and development within the school
- Approve school's curriculum vision statement
- Review and monitor quality of teaching through feedback from observations and learning walks
- Establish and keep up to date a written policy on the provision of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Receive regular reports on specific whole school issues/specialist areas
- Review development of EYFS
- Monitor and review IT provision and communication with stakeholders
- Overview the provision for MAL and high attaining students
- Monitor and review pastoral support initiatives
- Annual review of school timetable
- Receive and approve Literacy and Numeracy catch-up strategy and evaluate impact
- Supporting leaders with initiatives to further pupil outcomes
- Monitor the assessment of pupils

**Standards and School Improvement**

- Approve and monitor the impact of the school improvement plan (SIP/SDP)
- Agree and publish school specific targets within SIP for pupil to achieve WLT progress and achievement targets
- Hold the school to account for pupil progress and achievement within pupil sub-groups
- Receive termly updates to monitor impact of provision for children with SEND, EAL learners, LAC, Children eligible for PP funding, MAL
- Monitor progress and achievement for pupil sub-groups

**Finance and Risk**

- Monitor and review the budget income and expenditure
- Adopt and comply with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Review school specific Risk Assessments
- Hold the school to account for outcomes specific to the use of pupil premium, sports premium and any other ring-fenced money
- Receive and approve Pupil Premium and Sports Premium Strategy
- Scrutinise and evaluate impact of pupil premium strategies

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	<p><b>Personnel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Run (in conjunction with Trustees) Head Teacher and deputy Headteacher recruitment exercise and recommend appointment*</li><li>• Monitor the appointment of staff within the Shadow Staffing Structure agreed by the Trust Personnel Committee</li><li>• Annually review application of pay policies for compliance in individual schools</li><li>• Monitor the implementation of disciplinary/capability procedures/absence procedures</li><li>• Dismiss any other member of staff/employee on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer Headteacher.</li><li>• Verify accuracy and completeness of the Single Central Record</li><li>• Ensure Appraisal policies have been applied appropriately and fairly at the school</li><li>• Performance management of Academy Headteachers</li><li>• Monitor Staff CPD and evaluate impact</li><li>• Monitor staff work life balance and wellbeing</li><li>• Monitor staff absence trends</li><li>• Monitor staffing requirements to meet the curriculum</li><li>• Monitor staff exit questionnaires and identify any trends</li><li>• Hear any staff pay/grievance appeals or disciplinary/capability appeals not potentially resulting in termination of contract.</li></ul> <p><b>Premises and Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversee building maintenance plans and ensure local needs have been captured in the repairs and maintenance strategy</li><li>• Review and Approve a Lettings Policy and monitor school lettings.</li><li>• Review and Approve school specific Accessibility Plan</li><li>• Review and Approve Health &amp; Safety policy and procedures, including critical incident procedures and lockdown procedures</li><li>• Monitor Health and Safety compliance on school sites and conduct an annual H&amp;S walkaround</li><li>• Receive annual H&amp;S audit from local authority</li></ul> <p><b>Admissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish an Admissions Policy to recommend to the Trust Board</li><li>• Monitor the Admissions Policy and practice including the school rolls</li><li>• Review PAN for the school and make any recommendations for change to the Trust Board.</li><li>• Consider medical and social applications.</li><li>• Conduct review of pupil number projections</li><li>• Appeal against Local Authority admission number and directions to admit pupil(s) if required</li><li>• Oversee determination of school places with local authority</li><li>• Oversee in-year admissions including IYFAP</li><li>• Carry out any admissions consultations as required by Schools Admissions Code</li></ul> <p><b>Appeal Panel Members:</b> any three governors may serve on an appeal panel as required.</p>
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\* Head Teacher and Deputy Headteacher

- Trust Personnel to approve the advertising of the post and the salary range to be used on consideration of a recommendation from the CEO
- CEO would be responsible for producing the job pack, setting the interview day(s) and setting up the interview panel(s).
- The CEO, and at least 1 trustee and 1 governor would sit on the interview panel.
- The Trust Personnel committee would ratify the panel's recommendation of appointee.
- The Trust Finance committee would ratify the panel's recommendation of appointee, including any salary variation.