

**Jerry Clay Academy**  
**Governance Statement**  
**For The Year Ended 31 August 2021**

**Scope of Responsibility**

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Jerry Clay Academy has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement of loss.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of the trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Jerry Clay Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement. The board of trustees has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
T Swinburne (Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (resigned 31.12.20)	2	2
C Elliott (Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (appointed 01.01.21)	3	3
E Brook (Staff trustee)	3	5
L Bland	5	5
A Carter (Chair)	5	5
M Dean (resigned 07.02.21)	3	3
D Dews	5	5
S Green (resigned 07.02.21)	2	2
T Palin (Staff trustee)	4	5
H Taylor-Lyte	5	5
S Williamson	5	5
S Akers (appointed 27.05.21)	1	1

**Coverage of the Board's work**

The Board covers both the governance requirements of Jerry Clay Academy and also the Jerry Clay English Hub. A separate English Hub Governance subcommittee is planned from November 2021 onwards.

**Governance reviews**

The Board carries out robust self-evaluation as part of the ongoing school improvement plans. They are presented with an extensive range of academic and financial data throughout the year which is evaluated and challenged as evidenced in the meeting minutes.

An annual effectiveness statement is prepared by the Chairs' of the Standards and curriculum subcommittee and Finance and Resources subcommittee which are then posted on the JCA website.

The Board met fewer than six times in the year but maintained effective oversight of funds between meetings by receiving updates via email and sharing of files using Microsoft Teams.

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**Governance - continued**

The Finance and Resource Committee is a sub-committee of the main governing body. Its purpose is to manage the Academy's resources and finances efficiently and effectively. Its purpose is to:

- Review and monitor the financial performance of the Academy
- Hold the Accounting Officer to account regarding financial management
- Oversight of internal and external audits
- Approval of estates and facilities planning

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
T Swinburne (Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (resigned 31.12.20)	2	2
C Elliott (Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (appointed 01.01.21)	2	2
E Brook (Staff trustee)	2	4
A Carter	4	4
M Dean (resigned 07.02.21)	3	3
D Dews	4	4
S Green (resigned 07.02.21)	2	2
H Taylor-Lyte	4	4
T Palin	4	4

**Review of Value for Money**

As accounting officer the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Challenging how and why services are provided. We regularly review all the Academy's core functions through target setting and performance indicators to ensure continual improvement.

Comparing the performance of the Academy with other similar schools and neighbouring schools. This is performed through financial benchmarking statistics, effective financial management procedures, external audits and self-evaluation assessment.

Consulting with appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made, for example through parental questionnaires, pupil councils, staff and Governors.

Promoting fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, effective and efficient way possible.

The accounting officer for the Academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by ongoing review of the SLAs with the following providing additional value for money:

- The gas contract was renewed with comparison of contracts through the School Switch website and the YPO Framework; YPO provided the best value for a 3 year fixed rate contract. With significant increases in gas prices in recent months the fixed contract should provide good value.
- Broadband was moved to an enhanced fully fibre service at no additional cost versus the existing service
- Furlough of wrap-around staff to minimise the impact of lost income

In addition, staffing capacity has been carefully managed across the academy and English Hub to ensure value for money is achieved.

**The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of charitable company policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Jerry Clay Academy for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.