

Accomplish Multi Academy Trust Limited (Registered number: 07688230)

Governance Statement For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Accomplish Multi Academy Trust Limited 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 trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Accomplish Multi Academy Trust Limited 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:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
T Swinburne (CEO / Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (appointed 14.3.22)	3	3
C Elliott (Headteacher and Accounting Officer until 14.3.22)	5	5
E Brook (Staff trustee) (resigned 28.10.21)	1	1
L Bland	4	5
A Carter (Chair)	5	5
D Dews	5	5
T Palin (Staff trustee) (resigned 18.5.22)	4	4
H Taylor-Lyte	3	5
S Williamson (resigned 10.7.22)	4	5
S Akers	4	5
H Jones (appointed 6.7.22)	1	1
A Loftus (appointed 14.3.22)	3	3
A Skinner (appointed 14.3.22)	3	3

Coverage of the Board's work

The Board covers both the governance requirements of Accomplish which includes, Jerry Clay Academy and also the Jerry Clay English Hub. A separate English Hub Governance subcommittee has operated since November 2021 onwards.

Conflicts of interest

The Trust maintains an up to date and complete register of interests and has conflict of interest on every meeting agenda. If a conflict of interest is identified the trustee would abstain from any discussion or decisions in relation to that company. The Trust doesn't have any subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates.

Meetings

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 / GovernorHub.

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

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Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
T Swinburne (Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) (appointed 14.03.22)	1	1
C Elliott (Headteacher)	3	3
A Carter	3	3
D Dews	3	3
H Taylor-Lyte	2	3
T Palin (resigned 18.5.22)	2	2
A Skinner (appointed 14.3.22)	-	1
S Akers	2	2

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the CEO/ Executive 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 Trust 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 Trustees.

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:

- Teacher laptops were replaced during the year under a competitive lease agreement
- Smartboards were replaced following a competitive quoting exercise

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 Accomplish Multi Academy Trust Limited for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the charitable company is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the charitable company's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.