

**Trustees:** As charitable companies limited by guarantee, every academy trust has Trustees, who act as both charity trustees and the directors of the company. Although they are charities, academy trusts are not registered with the Charity Commission, but are responsible directly to The Secretary of State for Education, who is their ‘principal regulator’.

Everyone involved in governance at The OWN Trust commits to the Nolan seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

Membership and appointments:

1. Members appoint the majority of Trustees (a maximum of 11)
2. Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees (a maximum of 3)
3. All appointments are for a period of four years

Trustees’ core duties:

1. Setting the strategic direction for the Trust
2. Ensuring strong financial management
3. Holding the Trust and its member schools to account for educational standards and the delivery of the academy’s objectives
4. Ensuring the Trust operates in accordance with its charitable objects and funding agreement
5. Ensuring the Trust complies with company and charity law
6. Signing off the annual accounts
7. Appointing the Accounting Officer (this is the CEO)
8. The Trust Board is the employer of the staff in all schools in the Trust
9. The Trust Board determines the remit and membership of executive committees and Local Governing Bodies

How do Trustees exercise their duties?

1. The Trust Board is a corporate entity.
2. The Trust Board meets six times per year.
3. Trustees form the majority of members on any executive committee of which the Trust currently has two – Human Resources and Finance & Audit.
4. Each school has a Local Governing Body (LGB) which legally is a committee delegated by the Trust.
5. Where responsibilities have been delegated to an executive committee or LGB, the Trust Board continues to remain accountable.
6. Trustees visit the schools in the Trust to inform themselves about the circumstances and context of each school.
7. Trustees may be linked to a development area or a statutory responsibility such as Safeguarding or SEND.
8. Trustees work closely with the leadership team.

Further information on the role of Trustees can be found in the Governance Handbook <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>