



Accountability, Review and Challenge (ARC) Group Terms of Reference

Enc 3a

1. Membership

- The ARC group will comprise of members who have the individual and collective skills and knowledge to equip the group to ask challenging questions focused on performance improvement. The Regional Executive Principal will be held to account for outcomes. The group will conduct oversight of Drive Team activities.

The membership structure will be as follows:

- The Chair for the ARC Group (appointed by the Board, being the trustee with allocated lead responsibility for that region)
- The Drive Team Chairs (who attend across the region, with a minimum of 2 Drive Team Chairs to attend for the whole meeting)
- The Regional Executive Principal

Attendees are: to provide information and advice

- The Chief Executive Officer
- The Chief Operating Officer
- The Regional Business Manager
- A Drive Team Chair who is not attending as a member of the group, can attend with their academy Principal to discuss their respective academy
- A clerk
- Other attendees may be invited by the Chair to attend to support effective working of the group e.g. a commissioned National Lead of Governor as part of a programme of Drive Team Chairs development.

2. Quorum

- The quorum shall be three members.
- In the absence of a Chair at the meeting the CEO will facilitate the engagement of an alternate Trustee or equivalent skilled governance practitioner.

3. Meetings

The committee shall meet termly and otherwise, as required.

4. Terms of Reference

- To systematically hold Trust Regional Executive Principals to account; ensuring rigorous review and to challenging REP decision-making in light of impact performance and progress as appropriate.
- To ensure accountability of school leaders through a systematic process of monitoring and proactive engagement: to scrutinise school performance data and other reporting to monitor and review school progress relative to targets established in the STRAP (School Termly Report: Action and Priorities) and school development plans; to commission / review deep dive scrutiny to analyse impact relative to leadership decisions and actions and; to challenge leaders relative to school performance and progress, including the decisions made to achieve such progress.
- To monitor the impact of the Trust Rapid Improvement Plans and to monitor the impact of regional school improvement funding.
- To conduct oversight and quality assurance of Drive Team activities – including through review of Drive Team minutes, visit reports and development plans to ensure effective focus on supporting school improvement .

- To support and intervene where Drive Teams are judged as not fulfilling their function.
- To quality assure the Drive Team process of community engagement and stakeholder voice.
- Identify, monitor and appropriately report on risk.
- To report to the Trust Board and ensure communication back to school Drive Teams.
- To monitor and ensure admissions arrangements are followed for Trust Academies.
- To, on occasion, support the formation of governance panels including relative to pupil exclusion, parent complaints and staff pay, grievance and disciplinary matters.
- To undertake performance management of school Principals in conjunction with the Regional Executive Principal.

These terms of reference will be reviewed by the Trust Board annually.