Elements
Diocesan Learning Trust
Flourishing together, in the love of God.

# QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

2026-2027

**ELEMENTS DIOCESAN LEARNING TRUST**
**QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**
**CHRISTIAN VISION STATEMENT**

Together we flourish, in the love of God.

The Quality of Education Committee will discharge its responsibilities through this vision, ensuring high-quality education, strong safeguarding, inclusive practice, character development, and opportunities for every pupil and adult within the Trust community to flourish.

## 1. PURPOSE

The Quality of Education Committee is a committee of the Trust Board and exists to provide assurance and advice to the Board regarding:

- educational standards and outcomes;
- curriculum quality and effectiveness;
- safeguarding and pupil welfare;
- attendance and inclusion;
- leadership capacity and school improvement;
- equality, inclusion and SEND provision.

The Committee will support the Trust Board in ensuring that every school provides excellent education within a distinctly Christian framework, enabling every child and adult to flourish academically, spiritually, socially and personally.

Together we flourish, in the love of God. The Committee will ensure that the Trust's Christian vision and values remain central to decision-making, school improvement and educational provision across all Trust schools.

## 2. AUTHORITY

The Committee is authorised by the Trust Board to:

- investigate any matter within these Terms of Reference;
- seek any information it requires from Trust leaders, schools and officers;
- request reports, data and evidence relating to educational performance;
- commission reviews or presentations where necessary;
- make recommendations to the Trust Board regarding educational priorities and improvement actions.

## 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee shall:

- act on matters delegated by the Trust Board;
- support delivery of the Trust Strategic Plan;
- contribute to Trust and school improvement priorities;
- approve the Trust Inclusion Strategy
- maintain oversight of educational performance across the Trust;
- consider safeguarding, inclusion and equality implications in all aspects of its work;
- liaise with other Board committees where appropriate;
- ensure the Board receives sufficient information to fulfil its accountability responsibilities.

**4. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee shall comprise:

- a minimum of three Trustees/Directors;
- the CEO in attendance;
- the CSIO/DoE in attendance
- such co-opted non-voting members as approved by the Board.

The Board may appoint individuals with specialist educational, safeguarding, SEND, church school or leadership expertise as advisers to the Committee.

Other Directors may attend and contribute to discussions.

Chair

- The Chair shall be appointed or elected annually by the Board.
- The Chair shall be a Director.
- In the Chair's absence, members present shall elect a Chair for that meeting.

Training and Development

The Committee Chair shall ensure:

- effective induction for new members;
- ongoing governance and educational development;
- regular training regarding safeguarding, SEND, inclusion and school performance data.

**5. MEETINGS**

- The Committee shall meet at least three times annually
- Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chair or any two Committee members.
- Papers should normally be circulated at least five working days before meetings.
- Other Directors and invited officers may attend meetings.
- Decisions shall be determined by a majority vote of members present and voting.

Where votes are tied, the matter shall be referred to the Trust Board.

**6. QUORUM**

The quorum shall be three members, at least two of whom must be Directors.

No decision shall be taken unless the majority of those voting are Directors.

**7. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND OUTCOMES**

The Committee shall:

- monitor educational standards across all schools;
- receive and scrutinise Trust-wide performance information;
- monitor pupil outcomes and achievement;
- monitor rates of progress for all groups of learners;
- review outcomes for disadvantaged pupils;
- review outcomes for pupils with SEND;
- review outcomes for vulnerable learners;

- consider attendance, persistent absence and exclusion data;
- monitor the effectiveness of strategies to raise standards;
- identify areas of excellent practice and opportunities for wider dissemination;
- identify underperformance and ensure effective support and challenge is provided;
- review Ofsted inspection outcomes and subsequent improvement actions.

**B. CURRICULUM AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

The Committee shall:

- monitor the quality, breadth and ambition of the curriculum;
- review curriculum effectiveness and impact;
- ensure curriculum provision meets statutory requirements;
- oversee curriculum provision relating to:
    - Relationships, Sex and Health Education;
    - British Values;
    - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development;
    - online safety;
    - digital literacy;
    - careers and preparation for life;
    - cultural capital opportunities;
- review implementation of the Trust Inclusion Strategy;
- ensure curriculum provision supports all pupils to achieve and flourish.

**C. LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

The Committee shall:

- monitor the effectiveness of executive, senior and middle leadership;
- review the effectiveness of school improvement strategies;
- oversee Trust-wide school improvement activity;
- consider school self-evaluation and improvement planning;
- review School Improvement Plans and key priorities;
- monitor leadership succession planning;
- review feedback from Local Governance Committees;
- assess the impact of collaboration across schools within the Trust.

**D. INCLUSION, SEND AND VULNERABLE PUPILS**

The Committee shall:

- ensure compliance with the SEND Code of Practice;
- monitor Trust inclusion strategies;
- review provision and outcomes for pupils with SEND;
- review provision and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils;
- review provision for looked after children and other vulnerable groups;
- monitor equality of opportunity across the Trust;
- receive assurance that barriers to achievement are identified and addressed effectively.

**E. SAFEGUARDING, ATTENDANCE AND PUPIL WELFARE**

The Committee shall:

- monitor safeguarding effectiveness across the Trust;
- review safeguarding reports and key performance indicators;
- oversee safeguarding arrangements for alternative provision;
- monitor attendance and persistent absence trends;
- review pupil wellbeing indicators;
- monitor behaviour and exclusion information;
- ensure safeguarding systems remain effective and compliant;
- receive assurance regarding safer recruitment practices;
- monitor allegations management arrangements;
- ensure safeguarding remains central to school improvement activity.

The Committee shall recognise attendance and persistent absence as key safeguarding indicators.

**F. DIGITAL SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Committee shall:

- oversee curriculum provision relating to online safety;
- receive assurance regarding filtering and monitoring arrangements;
- review how schools educate pupils about misinformation, disinformation and online harms;
- monitor digital literacy and responsible technology use;
- evaluate preparation for emerging technologies including artificial intelligence;
- support progress towards the DfE Digital and Technology Standards

**G. TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee shall:

- monitor the quality of teaching and learning;
- evaluate the impact of professional development programmes;
- review the effectiveness of Trust-wide staff development;
- assess the impact of school-to-school support;
- review the deployment of expertise across the Trust;
- monitor Trust recruitment and retention of skilled leaders and practitioners.

**H. ADMISSIONS**

The Committee shall:

- review admissions arrangements for Trust schools;
- provide recommendations to the Board as Admissions Authority;
- monitor compliance with the School Admissions Code.

**8. REPORTING**

The Committee shall:

- report its proceedings to the next meeting of the Trust Board;

- submit approved minutes to the Board;
- highlight significant educational risks and assurance matters;
- contribute to the Trust's annual reporting arrangements where appropriate.

**9. COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS**

The Committee shall annually review:

- its effectiveness;
- membership and skills;
- training requirements;
- compliance with these Terms of Reference;
- alignment with Trust strategy and governance requirements.

Recommended amendments shall be submitted to the Trust Board for approval.

**10. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information received by the Committee shall be treated as confidential unless designated otherwise by the Trust Board.

Committee papers, reports and discussions shall remain confidential except where disclosure is authorised or legally required.

**11. REVIEW**

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually and recommended to the Trust Board for approval.

Approved: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027