



Galileo Governance Charter

Galileo is a charitable voluntary organisation which relies on the valuable input of a number of non-executive volunteers, supported by an experienced team of staff. Due to the size of the organisation and the number of schools for which it is responsible, coupled with its drive for accountability, it is a complex organisation with various important elements of governance.

Principles

1. The Galileo Charter sets out the fundamental principles of the organisation and lays down the rules for its governance. The Charter consists of the principles set out here, the Academy Trust Articles of Association and the detail set out in the Roles and Functions Matrix and Terms of Reference.
2. The governance principles of Galileo recognise the importance of developing relationships with common purpose and they are about developing processes and structures.
3. We will continue to develop our governance arrangements to shape and take account of best practice in the sector. The '21 questions that every Multi-academy Trust should ask itself' (March 2015; see Annex 1), set out by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Education Governance and Leadership, provides a foundation by which we will assess the effectiveness of our governance.
4. Financial governance must, as a foundation, be compliant with the principles and regulations set out in the Academies Financial Handbook. Galileo aims to go beyond this foundation to provide excellence in its governance.
5. Governance is underpinned by a common understanding about who is responsible for providing valuable input to decision making and who has the decision-making responsibility.
6. Effective governance in our Academy Trust is supported by the following:
 - i. Trust Members – the guardians of the Constitution
 - ii. Trust Board – the Directors / Trustees
 - iii. Trust sub-committees
 - iv. Local Governing Bodies – the Local Governors
 - v. The Executive Team – the Chief Executive Officer (the CEO), Director of Operations and Director of Finance
7. The Trust Board has overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Academy Trust, including the establishment and maintenance of the Academies.
8. The governance of each Academy shall be delegated to the relevant Local Governing Body.