

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

ATTENDANCE & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Information on attendance and governance summarised below is extracted partly from the Annual Report & Accounts 2023-24. The Articles of Association allow for a minimum of three Members (to not include staff) and up to ten Trustees appointed by Members for a four-year period. The Board met five times during the year:

| Trustees | Meetings attended | Out of possible |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| C Midgley (Chair) | 4 | 5 |
| A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer) | 5 | 5 |
| A Birt (resigned 7 December 2023) | 0 | 1 |
| E Brooke (Resigned 31 December 2023) | 0 | 2 |
| J Fryer (Resigned 15 February 2024) | 2 | 2 |
| K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee) | 5 | 5 |
| I Jaffer | 5 | 5 |
| J Nellis (Resigned 22 October 2024) | 5 | 5 |
| J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee) | 4 | 5 |
| J Power | 5 | 5 |

Governance

At each of its meetings, the Board has received reports on the performance of the Trust from the CEO, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The scope of these reports has included: performance against trust objectives including growth plans and offers; attendance focus; admissions information; school improvement assessments; Ofsted assessment; notable risks including safeguarding; health and safety; ICT plans; sustainability and climate change strategy; financial performance, including management accounts; statutory compliance and audit actions; HR activities and performance management. The Trust Board also receives correspondence and guidance updates from ESFA, such as correspondence from the Chair of ESFA and the Academy Trust Handbook.

Trustees have further engaged to inform their view of the Trust via shadowing (for context) School Improvement Partner visits; meetings with the CEO, COO, CFO on aspects of focus e.g. Standards reporting and Management Accounts reporting including budget setting. (Management accounts are sent to the Chair and Chair of Finance monthly). To help fulfil its duties, the Board has appointed a Finance and Premises Committee; a Standards Committee; and Local Governing Bodies at each of the constituent academies. J Midgley, who is a qualified accountant and Director at a large international audit firm, is Chair of Finance and Premises. At its meetings, Finance and Premises Committee has considered: strategic financial priorities; Management Accounts; three-year budget setting; audit and internal control reports; funding updates; Key Performance Indicators.

| Finance and Premises / Standards Committees # | F&P | STANDARDS |
|--|-------|-----------|
| C Midgley (Chair) | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer) | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| A Birt (resigned 7 December 2023) | 0 / 2 | 1 / 2 |
| E Brooke (Resigned 31 December 2023) | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 |
| J Fryer (Resigned 15 February 2024) | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 |
| K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee) | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| I Jaffer | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| J Nellis (Resigned 22 October 2024) | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee) | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |
| J Power | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 |

N.B. Attendance at LGB Committee meetings is reported separately on individual academy websites.

Governance reviews The Trust Board reconstituted on 25th January 2018, as the Trust moved from a single academy trust to a multi academy trust on 1st March 2018. In addition, Members and Trustees have continued to review their structures, including that of the Local Governing Bodies. As a result, in Autumn Term 2018, the Trust increased the number of Members to five and restructured membership at Member and Trustee level to introduce separation of duties across the two levels, in accordance with Academy Trust

Handbook best practice. Parent governor membership is provided by Local Governing Bodies, each with two community governors, two staff governors and two parents.

During 2023-24 a governance focus, led by the Director of Governance, has been on board and subcommittee meetings. Developments have included: re-formed meeting schedule and updated formats for reporting. Trust Board self-review took place in Summer Term 2022, and it is planned that there will be an external review in Summer Term 2025. In addition, there will be a Local Governor skills audit and self-review in Summer Term 2025.