

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

**A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**

**COMPANY NUMBER: 07654902**

As approved by Special Resolution dated

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

**COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**

**INTERPRETATION**

1. In these Articles:-

- (a) "the Academies" means all the schools referred to in Article 4 and established by the Company (and "Academy" shall mean any one of those schools);
- (b) "Academy Councils" means the committees appointed pursuant to Articles 100-104 (and "Academy Council" means any one of these committees);
- (c) "Academy Financial Year" means the academic year from 1st of September to 31st of August of the following year;
- (d) "the Articles" means these Articles of Association of the Company;
- (e) "Chief Executive Officer" means such person as may be appointed by the Directors as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company;
- (f) "Chief Inspector" means Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills or his successor;
- (g) "Church of England Academies" means all the schools referred to in Article 4.1.1(b) and operated by the Company (and "Church of England Academy" shall mean any one of those schools);
- (h) "clear days" in relation to the period of a notice means the period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day on which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
- (i) "Clerk" means the clerk to the Directors or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the clerk to the Directors, including a joint, assistant or deputy clerk;
- (j) "the Company" means, save as otherwise defined at Article 6.9, the company intended to be regulated by these Articles and referred to in Article 2;

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- (k) “Diocese” means the relevant Church of England diocese in which one or more of the Church of England Academies are situated;
- (l) “Diocesan Board of Education” means that body constituted under the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 for the Diocese and any successor body;
- (m) “Diocesan Director of Education ” means the chief officer of the Diocesan Board of Education for the Diocese;
- (n) “the Directors” means, save as otherwise defined at Article 6.9, the directors of the Company (and “Director” means any one of those directors);
- (o) “Financial Expert” means an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;
- (p) “Foundation Directors” means those Directors appointed under Article 51;
- (q) “Foundation Member” has the meaning given to it under Article 12(b);
- (r) “Local Authority Associated Persons” means any person associated with any local authority within the meaning given in section 69 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (s) “Member” means a member of the Company and someone who as such is bound by the undertaking contained in Article 8;
- (t) “the Memorandum” means the Memorandum of Association of the Company;
- (u) “Non-Foundation Director” means those Directors appointed under Article 52;
- (v) “Non-Foundation Member” has the meaning given to it in Article 12(a);
- (w) “Office” means the registered office of the Company;
- (x) “Parent Directors” means the Directors elected or appointed pursuant to Articles 53 – 56 inclusive;
- (y) “Principals” means the head teachers of the Academies (and “Principal” means any one of these head teachers);
- (z) “Principal Regulator” means the body or person appointed as the Principal Regulator of the Company under the Charities Act 2011;
- (aa) “Relevant Funding Agreements” means the agreement or agreements entered into by the Company and the Secretary of State under section 1 of the Academies Act 2010 for the establishment of each Academy, including any variation or supplemental agreements thereof;

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- (bb) "Reserved Teacher" has the same meaning given to the term "reserved teacher" in section 58(2) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 namely a teacher who is (i) selected for their fitness and competence to give religious education as is required in accordance with arrangements under paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 19 to that Act (arrangements for religious education in accordance with the Objects and the school's trust deed); and (ii) is specifically appointed to do so;
  - (cc) "Scheme of Delegation" means an instrument by the Directors delegating such powers and responsibilities of the Directors as may be appropriate for them to delegate to the Academy Councils consistently with the Objects;
  - (dd) "the seal" means the common seal of the Company if it has one;
  - (ee) "Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for Education or successor;
  - (ff) "Staff Director" means an employee of the Company who may be appointed as a Director;
  - (gg) "Teacher" means a person employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide his services as a teacher at one or more Academies;
  - (hh) "Trustees" means those trustees holding the schools' sites and providing them to the Company for use and occupation by the Academies;
  - (ii) "the United Kingdom" means Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
  - (jj) words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender. Words importing the singular number shall include the plural number, and vice versa;
  - (kk) subject as aforesaid, words or expressions contained in these Articles shall, unless the context requires otherwise, bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006, as appropriate;
  - (ll) any reference to a statute or statutory provision or measure shall include any statute or statutory provision or measure which replaces or supersedes such statute or statutory provision or measure including any modification or amendment thereto.
2. The Company's name is Acorn Education Trust (and in this document it is called "**the Company**").
3. The Company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales.

## OBJECTS

4. The Company's objects ("**the Objects**") are specifically restricted to the following:

4.1 to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:

4.1.1 by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which shall include:

- a) Academies other than those designated Church of England, whether with or without a designated religious character; and
- b) Church of England Academies designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and in having regard to any advice and following any directives issued by the Diocesan Board of Education,

but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England;

4.1.2 by providing childcare facilities and adult training to develop the capacity and skills of parents-to-be and parents with children primarily but not exclusively under five in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet the needs of children;

4.2 to provide recreational and leisure time facilities in the interests of social welfare for the inhabitants of Warminster and the surrounding areas especially those who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances; and

4.3 to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Warminster and the surrounding areas the physical, intellectual and social development of primarily but not exclusively children under five, especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

5. In furtherance of the Objects but not further or otherwise the Company may exercise the following powers:

- (a) to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

of the Company;

- (b) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Company shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;
- (c) (subject to such further consents as may be required by law or as may be required from the Trustees as landlords/licensors where this is the case) to acquire, alter, improve and charge or otherwise dispose of property;
- (d) subject to Article 6 below to employ such staff, as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects (including the maintenance of an effective Church of England ethos in relation to Church of England Academies and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;
- (e) to establish or support, whether financially or otherwise, any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects;
- (f) to co-operate with other charities, other independent schools, schools maintained by a local authority, 16-19 Academies, alternative provision Academies, institutions within the further education sector, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects and to exchange information and advice with them;
- (g) to pay out of funds of the Company the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Company;
- (h) to establish, maintain, carry on, manage and develop the Academies at locations to be determined by the Directors;
- (i) to offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to pupils and former pupils, and otherwise to encourage and assist pupils and former pupils;
- (j) to provide educational facilities and services to students of all ages and the wider community for the public benefit;
- (k) to carry out research into the development and application of new techniques in education and to their approach to curriculum development and delivery and to publish the results of such research, and to develop means of benefiting from

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

application of the experience of industry, commerce, other schools and the voluntary sector to the education of pupils in academies;

- (l) subject to such consents as may be required from the Trustees or otherwise required by law and/or by any contract entered into by or on behalf of the Company, to borrow and raise money for the furtherance of the Objects in such manner and on such security as the Company may think fit;
- (m) to deposit or invest any funds of the Company not immediately required for the furtherance of its Objects (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a financial expert as the Directors consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- (n) to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert, but only on terms that:
  - (i) the investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Directors;
  - (ii) every transaction is reported promptly to the Directors;
  - (iii) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Directors;
  - (iv) the Directors are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;
  - (v) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;
  - (vi) all payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Directors on receipt; and
  - (vii) the financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Directors;
- (o) to arrange for investments or other property of the Company to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the control of the Directors or of a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- (p) to provide indemnity insurance to Directors and the members of any Academy Council (to the extent necessary) in accordance with, and subject to the conditions of section 232 to 235 of the Companies Act 2006, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law applicable to charitable companies and any such indemnity is limited accordingly;
- (q) to establish subsidiary companies to carry on any trade or business for the purpose of raising funds for the Company;

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- (r) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for or are incidental to or conducive to the achievement of the Objects and appropriate to the religious character any of the Academies.

6.1 The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

6.2 None of the income or property of the Company may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Company. Nonetheless a Member of the Company who is not also a Director may:

- (a) benefit as a beneficiary of the Company;
- (b) be paid reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Company;
- (c) be paid rent for premises let by the Member of the Company if the amount of the rent and other terms of the letting are reasonable and proper; and
- (d) be paid interest on money lent to the Company at a reasonable and proper rate, such rate not to exceed 2 per cent per annum below the base lending rate of a UK clearing bank selected by the Directors, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher.

6.3 A Director may benefit from any indemnity insurance purchased at the Company's expense to cover the liability of the Directors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Company: provided that any such insurance shall not extend to:

- (i) any claim arising from any act or omission which Directors knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Directors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and,
- (ii) provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Directors in their capacity as directors of the Company.

Further, this Article does not authorise a Director to benefit from any indemnity insurance that would be rendered void by any provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law.



## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- 6.4 A company, which has shares listed on a recognised stock exchange and of which any one Director holds no more than 1% of the issued capital of that company, may receive fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Company.
- 6.5 A Director may at the discretion of the Directors be reimbursed from the property of the Company for reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Company, but excluding expenses in connection with foreign travel.
- 6.6 Subject to the provisions of Articles 6.7 and 6.8, no Director may:
- (a) buy any goods or services from the Company;
  - (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the Company;
  - (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from the Company other than the Chief Executive Officer and any Staff Director whose employment and/or remuneration is subject to the procedure and conditions in Article 6.8 and 6.8A;
  - (d) receive any other financial benefit from the Company unless:
    - (i) the payment is permitted by Article 6.7 and the Directors follow the procedure and observe the conditions set out in Article 6.8; or
    - (ii) the Directors obtain the prior written approval of the Charity Commission and fully comply with any procedures it prescribes.
- 6.7 Subject to Article 6.8, a Director may:
- (a) receive a benefit from the Company in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Company;
  - (b) be employed by the Company or enter into a contract for the supply of goods or services to the Company, other than for acting as a Director;
  - (c) receive interest on money lent to the Company at a reasonable and proper rate not exceeding 2% per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the Directors, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher; and
  - (d) receive rent for premises let by the Director to the Company if the amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease are reasonable and proper.
- 6.8 The Company and its Directors may only rely upon the authority provided by Article 6.7 if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- (a) the remuneration or other sums paid to the Director do not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances.
- (b) the Director is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of:
  - (i) his or her employment, remuneration, or any matter concerning the contract, payment or benefit; or
  - (ii) his or her performance in the employment, or his or her performance of the contract; or
  - (iii) any proposal to enter into any other contract or arrangement with him or her or to confer any benefit upon him or her that would be permitted under Article 6.7; or
  - (iv) any other matter relating to a payment or the conferring of any benefit permitted by Article 6.7;
- (c) the Director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Directors is present at the meeting;
- (d) save in relation to employing or contracting with the Chief Executive Officer or any other Director who is also an employee of the Company, the other Directors are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Company to employ or to contract with that Director rather than with someone who is not a Director. In reaching that decision the Directors must balance the advantage of employing a Director against the disadvantages of doing so (especially the loss of the Director's services as a result of dealing with the Director's conflict of interest);
- (e) the reason for their decision is recorded by the Directors in the minute book; and
- (f) a majority of the Directors then in office have received no such payments or benefit.

6.8A Not used.

6.9 In Articles 6.2 - 6.9:

- (a) "company" shall include any company in which the Company:

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- holds more than 50% of the shares; or
  - controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
  - has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;
- (b) “Director” shall include any child, stepchild, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister or spouse of the Director or any person living with the Director as his or her partner;
- (c) the employment or remuneration of a Director includes the engagement or remuneration of any firm or company in which the Director is:
- (i) a partner;
  - (ii) an employee;
  - (iii) a consultant;
  - (iv) a director;
  - (v) a member; or
  - (vi) a shareholder, unless the shares of the company are listed on a recognised stock exchange and the Director holds less than 1% of the issued capital.
7. The liability of the Members of the Company is limited.
8. Every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Company’s assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a Member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a Member, for payment of the Company’s debts and liabilities before he or she ceases to be a Member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
9. If the Company is wound up or dissolved and after all its debts and liabilities (including any under section 2 of the Academies Act 2010) have been satisfied there remains any property it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Company, but shall be given or transferred to some other charity or charities having objects similar to the Objects which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company by Article 6 above, chosen by the Members of the Company at or before the time of dissolution and if that cannot be done then to some other charitable object.
10. No alteration or addition shall be made to or in the provisions of the Memorandum and/or

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Articles where such amendments materially impact on the Church of England Academies without the written consent of the Trustees and the Diocesan Board of Education.

11. No alteration or addition shall be made to or in the provisions of the Articles which would have the effect (a) that the Company would cease to be a company to which section 60 of the Companies Act 2006 applies; or (b) that the Company would cease to be a charity; or (c) might weaken the maintenance of an effective ethos pertinent to the character of any of the Academies.

### MEMBERS

12. The Members of the Company shall comprise:

- (a) a minimum of 2 Members and their replacements from time to time appointed in accordance with Article 16 (the “**Non-Foundation Members**”); and
- (b) a minimum of 2 Members and their replacements from time to time appointed in accordance with Article 16A (the “**Foundation Members**”),

provided that there shall always be an equal number of Non-Foundation Members and Foundation Members.

13. Each of the persons entitled to appoint Members in Article 12 shall have the right from time to time by written notice delivered to the Office to remove any Member appointed by them and to appoint a replacement Member to fill a vacancy whether resulting from such removal or otherwise.

14. If any of the persons entitled to appoint Members in Article 12:

- (a) in the case of an individual, die or become legally incapacitated;
- (b) in the case of a corporate entity, cease to exist and are not replaced by a successor institution; or
- (c) becomes insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally,

their right to appoint Members under these Articles shall vest in the remaining Members.

15. Membership will terminate automatically if:

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

- (a) a Member (which is a corporate entity) ceases to exist and is not replaced by a successor institution;
- (b) a Member (who is an individual) dies or becomes incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs; or
- (c) a Member becomes insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with that Member's creditors generally.

15A. The Members may agree unanimously in writing (with the exception of the signatory to be removed) to remove any Member who is a signatory to the Memorandum (save that this provision shall not apply to the Diocesan Board of Education) provided that it is in the interests of the Company to remove such a Member.

16. The initial Non-Foundation Members shall be those 2 persons designated as such at the time at which these Articles are adopted. Further Non-Foundation Members shall be appointed by the initial Non-Foundation Members or their successors.

16A. The Foundation Members shall be:

- (a) where there is only one Diocese, the Diocesan Board of Education acting by the hand of its director and any other appointees of the Diocesan Board of Education as required to provide for an equal number of Non-Foundation Members and Foundation Members; or
- (b) where there is more than one Diocese, each Diocesan Board of Education or a Trust Corporation nominated by it for the purpose, in each case acting by the hand of its director, together with any other appointees of the Diocesan Boards of Education as may be required to provide for an equal number of Non-Foundation Members and Foundation Members.

17. Every person nominated to be a Member of the Company shall either sign a written consent to become a Member or sign the register of Members on becoming a Member.

18. Any Member may resign provided that after such resignation the number of Members is not less than three. A Member shall cease to be one immediately on the receipt by the Company of a notice in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to remove him under Article 13 provided that no such notice shall take effect when the number of Members is less than three unless it contains or is accompanied by the appointment of a replacement Member.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

19. The Company shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it; and not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting of the Company and that of the next. Provided that so long as the Company holds its first Annual General Meeting within eighteen months of its incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation or in the following year. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Directors shall appoint. All general meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called General Meetings.
20. The Directors may call general meetings and, on the requisition of Members pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, shall forthwith proceed to convene a general meeting in accordance with that Act. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Directors to call a general meeting, any Director or any Member of the Company may call a general meeting.

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

21. General meetings shall be called by at least fourteen clear days' notice but a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of Members having a right to attend and vote and together representing not less than 90% of the total voting rights at that meeting.

The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted and, in the case of an Annual General Meeting, shall specify the meeting as such. The notice shall also state that the Member is entitled to appoint a proxy.

The notice shall be given to all the Members, to the Directors and auditors.

22. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

## **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

23. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. A Member counts towards the quorum by being present either in person or by proxy. Two persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a Member or a proxy of

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

a Member or a duly authorised representative of a Member organisation shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least one Member is a Foundation Member and one Member is a Non-Foundation Member.

24. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Directors may determine.
25. If present, the chairman, if any, of the Directors or in his absence some other Director nominated by the Directors shall preside as chairman of the meeting.
26. If no Director is willing to act as chairman, or if no Director is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
27. A Director shall, notwithstanding that he is not a Member, be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting.
28. The chairman may, with the consent of a majority of the Members at a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.
29. A resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, a poll may be demanded:
  - (a) by the chairman; or
  - (b) by at least two Members having the right to vote at the meeting; or,
  - (c) by a Member or Members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at the meeting.
30. Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

31. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the chairman. The withdrawal of a demand for a poll shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand for the poll was made.
32. A poll shall be taken as the chairman directs and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be Members) and fix a time, date and place for declaring the results. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
33. A poll demanded on the election of the chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time, date and place as the chairman directs not being more than thirty days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll is demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
34. No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In other cases at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
35. A resolution in writing agreed by such number of Members as required if it had been proposed at a general meeting shall be as effectual as if it had been passed at a general meeting duly convened and held provided that a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every Member. The resolution may consist of several instruments in the like form each agreed by one or more Members.

### **VOTES OF MEMBERS**

36. On the show of hands every Member present in person shall have one vote. On a poll every Member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote.
37. Not used.



## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

38. No Member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all moneys then payable by him to the Company have been paid.
39. No objections shall be raised to the qualification of any person to vote at any general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
40. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the appointer and shall be in the following form (or in a form as near thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Directors may approve) -

“I/We, ....., of ....., being a Member/Members of the above named Company, hereby appoint ..... of ....., or in his absence, ..... of ..... as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/ general meeting of the Company to be held on .....20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed on ..... 20[ ]”

41. Where it is desired to afford Members an opportunity of instructing the proxy how he shall act the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form (or in a form as near thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Directors may approve) -

“I/We, ....., of ....., being a Member/Members of the above-named Company, hereby appoint .... of ....., or in his absence, ..... of ....., as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/ general meeting of the Company, to be held on .... 20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof.

This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

Resolution No. 1 \*for \* against

Resolution No. 2 \*for \* against.

\* Strike out whichever is not desired.

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit or abstain from voting,

Signed on .... 20[ ]”

42. The instrument appointing a proxy and any authority under which it is signed or a copy of such authority certified by a notary or in some other way approved by the Members may:
- (a) be deposited at the office or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Company in relation to the meeting not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or
  - (b) in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, be deposited as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll; or
  - (c) where the poll is not taken forthwith but is taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chairman or to the Clerk or to any Director,
- and an instrument of proxy which is not deposited or delivered in a manner so permitted shall be invalid.
43. A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by the duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll unless notice of the determination was received by the Company at the office or at such other place at which the instrument of proxy was duly deposited before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote given or the poll demanded or (or in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll.
44. Any organisation which is a Member of the Company may by resolution of its board of directors or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation which he represents as that organisation could exercise if it were an individual Member of the Company.

## **DIRECTORS**

45. The number of Directors shall be not less than three, but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.
46. Subject to Articles 48-49, the Company shall have the following Directors:
- (a) up to 5 Foundation Directors, appointed under Article 51;
  - (b) up to 4 Non-Foundation Directors, appointed under Article 52;
  - (c) the Chief Executive Officer;
  - (d) a minimum of 2 Parent Directors if appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no provision is made for parent representatives on Academy Councils under Article 101A.
47. The Company may also have any Co-opted Director appointed under Article 58.
48. The first Directors shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006.
49. Future Directors shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Director to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

## **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS**

50. Not used.
- 50A. The number of Directors who are employees of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer, must not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.
51. The Diocesan Board of Education shall appoint up to 5 Foundation Directors so as to ensure that there shall always be an equal number of Foundation Directors and Non-Foundation Directors. When calculating the number of Non-Foundation Directors in office, the Chief Executive Officer shall be treated as if he or she were a Non-Foundation Director. In the event that there is more than one Diocesan Board of Education, it shall be for the Diocesan Boards of Education to determine the appointments of the Foundation Directors, subject to the expectation that, wherever possible, each Diocesan

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Board of Education would have an appointee as a Foundation Director.

52. The Non-Foundation Members shall appoint up to 4 Non-Foundation Directors so as to ensure that there shall always be an equal number of Foundation Directors and Non-Foundation Directors. When calculating the number of Non-Foundation Directors in office, the Chief Executive Officer shall be treated as if he or she were a Non-Foundation Director.
- 52A. When selecting a person for appointment as a Foundation Director or Non-Foundation Director pursuant to Article 51 or 52, the relevant appointing body shall have regard to the person's ability and fitness to uphold the Objects and their skills and experience in relevant areas including without limitation school improvement, finance and HR.

### PARENT DIRECTORS

53. There shall be a minimum of two Parent Directors unless there are Academy Councils which include at least two parent members. For the purpose of Article 53, a **"parent member"** of an Academy Council must be a parent of a registered pupil or student at one or more of the Academies at the time 54A. Notwithstanding Article 53, if no parents put themselves forward for election the number of Parent Directors and Parent members of the Academy Councils or Advisory Bodies required shall be made up by Parent Directors and Parent members appointed by the Directors.
55. The Directors shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of the Parent Directors or Parent members of Academy Councils or Advisory Bodies, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at one of the Academies. Any election of the Parent Directors or Parent members of the Academy Councils or Advisory Bodies which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.
56. In appointing a Parent Director or Parent member of an Academy Council or an Advisory Body the Directors shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at an Academy; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

57. Subject to Article 65, the Chief Executive Officer shall be a Director for as long as he or she remains in office as such.

## **CO-OPTED DIRECTORS**

58. Subject to receipt of the written consent of the Diocesan Board(s) of Education (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed), the Directors may appoint up to 3 Co-opted Directors for such term (not exceeding four years) and otherwise upon such conditions as they shall think fit, subject to Article 50A and having regard to the person's ability and fitness to uphold the Objects. A 'Co-opted Director' means a person who is appointed to be a Director by being Co-opted by Directors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Directors may not co-opt an employee of the Company as a Co-opted Director if thereby the number of Directors who are employees of the Company would exceed one third of the total number of Directors including the Chief Executive Officer.

59 - 63. Not used.

## **TERM OF OFFICE**

64. The term of office for any Director (other than Co-opted Directors under Article 58) shall be four years, save that:

- a) this time limit shall not apply to the Chief Executive Officer; and
- b) the term of office may be shorter than 4 years for any Director other than a Parent Director (if any) if the appointing body determines this at the time of appointment of such a Director.

Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director, any Director may be re-appointed or re-elected.

## **RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL**

65. A Director shall cease to hold office if he resigns his office by notice to the Company (but only if at least three Directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

66. A Director shall cease to hold office if he is removed by the person or persons who appointed him. This Article does not apply in respect of a Parent Director.

66A. Co-opted Directors appointed in accordance with Article 58 may be removed by resolution of the Directors provided that no Co-opted Director may vote on the removal of another Co-opted Director.

- 66B. A Director shall cease to hold office if he, being an employee of the Company on appointment, ceases to be an employee of the Company.
67. Where a Director resigns his office or is removed from office, the Director or, where he is removed from office, those removing him, shall give written notice thereof to the Clerk.

## **DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS**

68. No person shall be qualified to be a Director unless he is aged 18 or over at the date of his election or appointment. No current pupil or current student of any of the Academies shall be a Director.
69. A Director shall cease to hold office if he becomes incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering his own affairs.
70. A Director shall cease to hold office if he is absent without the permission of the Directors from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Directors resolve that his office be vacated.
71. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if:
- (a) his estate has been sequestered and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or
  - (b) he is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.
72. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director at any time when he is subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).
73. A Director shall cease to hold office if he ceases to be a Director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006 or is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
74. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if he has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he was responsible or

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

to which he was privy, or which he by his conduct contributed to or facilitated.

75. Not used.
76. Not used.
77. A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director where he has, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.
78. After the first Academy has opened, a person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if he has not provided to the chairman of the Directors a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997. In the event that the certificate discloses any information which would in the opinion of either the chairman or the Chief Executive Officer confirm their unsuitability to work with children that person shall be disqualified. If a dispute arises as to whether a person shall be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final.
79. Where, by virtue of these Articles a person becomes disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold office as a Director; and he is, or is proposed, to become such a Director, he shall upon becoming so disqualified give written notice of that fact to the Clerk.
80. Articles 68 to 74, Articles 77 to 79 and Articles 97 to 98 also apply to any member of any committee of the Directors, including an Academy Council, who is not a Director.

### **CLERK TO THE DIRECTORS**

81. The Clerk shall be appointed by the Directors for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any Clerk so appointed may be removed by them. The Clerk shall not be a Director, or a Principal. Notwithstanding this Article, the Directors may, where the Clerk fails to attend a meeting of theirs, appoint any one of their number or any other person to act as Clerk for the purposes of that meeting.

**CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DIRECTORS**

82. The Directors shall for each school year elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among their number. A Director who is employed by the Company shall not be eligible for election as chairman or vice-chairman.
83. Subject to Article 84, the chairman or vice-chairman shall hold office as such until his successor has been elected in accordance with Article 85.
84. The chairman or vice-chairman may at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Clerk. The chairman or vice-chairman shall cease to hold office if:
- (a) he ceases to be a Director;
  - (b) he is employed by the Company;
  - (c) he is removed from office in accordance with these Articles; or
  - (d) in the case of the vice-chairman, he is elected in accordance with these Articles to fill a vacancy in the office of chairman.
85. Where by reason of any of the matters referred to in Article 84, a vacancy arises in the office of chairman or vice-chairman, the Directors shall at their next meeting elect one of their number to fill that vacancy.
86. Where the chairman is absent from any meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall act as the chair for the purposes of the meeting.
87. Where in the circumstances referred to in Article 86 the vice-chairman is also absent from the meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of vice-chairman, the Directors shall elect one of their number to act as a chairman for the purposes of that meeting, provided that the Director elected shall not be a person who is employed by the Company.
88. The Clerk shall act as chairman during that part of any meeting at which the chairman is elected.
89. Any election of the chairman or vice-chairman which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.



90. The Directors may remove the chairman or vice-chairman from office in accordance with these Articles.
91. A resolution to remove the chairman or vice-chairman from office which is passed at a meeting of the Directors shall not have effect unless-
- (i) it is confirmed by a resolution passed at a second meeting of the Directors held not less than fourteen days after the first meeting; and
  - (ii) the matter of the chairman's or vice-chairman's removal from office is specified as an item of business on the agenda for each of those meetings.
92. Before the Directors resolve at the relevant meeting on whether to confirm the resolution to remove the chairman or vice-chairman from office, the Director or Directors proposing his removal shall at that meeting state their reasons for doing so and the chairman or vice-chairman shall be given an opportunity to make a statement in response.

#### **POWERS OF DIRECTORS**

93. Subject to provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the Company shall be managed by the Directors who may exercise all the powers of the Company. No alteration of the Articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Directors by the Articles and a meeting of Directors at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the Directors.
94. In addition to all powers hereby expressly conferred upon them and without detracting from the generality of their powers under the Articles the Directors shall have the following powers, namely:
- (a) to expend the funds of the Company in such manner as they shall consider most beneficial for the achievement of the Objects and to invest in the name of the Company such part of the funds as they may see fit and to direct the sale or transposition of any such investments and to expend the proceeds of any such sale in furtherance of the Objects;
  - (b) to enter into contracts on behalf of the Company.

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

95. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Directors may consider any advice given by the Chief Executive Officer and any other executive officer.
96. Any bank account in which any money of the Company is deposited shall be operated by the Directors in the name of the Company. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such an account shall be signed by at least two signatories authorised by the Directors.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

97. Any Director who has or can have any direct or indirect duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest) which conflicts or may conflict with his duties as a Director shall disclose that fact to the Directors as soon as he becomes aware of it. A Director must absent himself from any discussions of the Directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his duty to act solely in the interests of the Company and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest).
98. For the purpose of Article 97, a Director has a Personal Financial Interest in the employment or remuneration of, or the provision of any other benefit to, that Director as permitted by and as defined by Articles 6.5 - 6.9.

### **THE MINUTES**

99. The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Directors shall be drawn up and entered into a book kept for the purpose by the person acting as Clerk for the purposes of the meeting; and shall be signed (subject to the approval of the Directors) at the same or next subsequent meeting by the person acting as chairman thereof. The minutes shall include a record of:
- (a) all appointments of officers made by the Directors; and
  - (b) all proceedings at meetings of the Company and of the Directors and of committees of Directors including the names of the Directors present at each such meeting.

### **COMMITTEES**

100. Subject to these Articles, the Directors:
- (a) shall appoint separate committees to be known as Academy Councils for each

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Academy; and

(b) may establish any other committee.

101. Subject to these Articles, the constitution, membership and proceedings of any committee shall be determined by the Directors. The establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of any committee of the Directors shall be reviewed at least once in every twelve months. The membership of any committee of the Directors may include persons who are not Directors, provided that (with the exception of the Academy Councils) a majority of members of any such committee shall be Directors. Except in the case of a Academy Council, no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of a committee of the Directors unless the majority of members of the committee present are Directors.

101A. The Directors shall ensure that any Academy Council shall include at least 2 elected representatives of the parents of pupils attending the relevant Academy.

101B. The Directors shall ensure that each Academy Council constituted:

a. in respect of any Academy that had been a voluntary controlled school immediately prior to its conversion to an academy and falling under Article 4.1.1(b) shall have up to 25% of its members appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education and that all of its members shall sign an undertaking to the Diocesan Board of Education to uphold the designated religious character of the said Academy;

b. in respect of any Academy that had been a voluntary aided school immediately prior to its conversion to an academy and falling under Article 4.1.1(b) shall have a majority of its members appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education and that all of its members shall sign an undertaking to the Diocesan Board of Education to uphold the designated religious character of the said Academy.

c. in respect of any Academy falling under Article 4.1.1(a) shall recognise and support the individual ethos of the Academy as a school not designated as having a religious character.

102. The power of delegation exercised under Article 105 in relation to the establishment of an Academy Council for an Academy shall be by way of Scheme of Delegation. The first Scheme of Delegation to be put in place for a Church of England Academy following incorporation will follow a Scheme of Delegation approved by the Diocesan Board of Education (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed).

103. Not used.

104. The functions and proceedings of the Academy Councils shall be subject to regulations made by the Directors from time to time.

## **DELEGATION**

105. The Directors may delegate to any Director, committee (including any Academy Council), the Chief Executive Officer or any other holder of an executive office, such of their powers or functions as they consider desirable to be exercised by them. Any such delegation shall be made subject to any conditions the Directors may impose, and may be revoked or altered.

106. Where any power or function of the Directors has been exercised by any committee (including any Academy Council) to any Director, the Chief Executive Officer or any other holder of an executive office, that person or committee shall report to the Directors in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise of that power or function at the meeting of the Directors immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PRINCIPALS AND STAFF**

107. The Directors shall appoint the Chief Executive Officer, having regard to that person's ability and fitness to uphold the Objects. In relation to such appointment, the Directors shall consult the Diocesan Director of Education (although shall not be bound by his or her views) provided this does not cause unreasonable delay.

107A. The Directors shall appoint the Principal of each Academy. In respect of the appointment of the Principal at each of the Church of England Academies, the Directors shall do so only with the agreement of the Diocesan Director of Education (such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) and shall make use of their powers under section 124A of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (in the case of an academy that immediately prior to becoming an academy was a voluntary aided school with a designated religious character) or section 124AA of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (in the case of an academy that immediately prior to becoming an academy was a voluntary controlled or foundation school with a designated religious character).

107B. In respect of each of those Church of England Academies that immediately prior to becoming academies were voluntary controlled schools, the Directors shall determine

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

at the time of the appointment of each Principal whether that Principal is to be a Reserved Teacher.

107C . The Directors may delegate such powers and functions as they consider are required by the Chief Executive Officer and Principals for the internal organisation, management and control of the Academies (including the implementation of all policies approved by the Directors and for the direction of the teaching and curriculum at the Academies).

107D. In appointing staff other than the Principal to those Church of England Academies that immediately prior to becoming academies were voluntary controlled schools, the Directors shall have regard where relevant to the powers provided to them under the Relevant Funding Agreement in respect of each Academy (being powers equivalent to the powers of governing bodies of Voluntary Controlled schools as set out in sections 58 to 60 of the Schools Standard and Framework Act):

- (a) so as to ensure that at least two Reserved Teachers (although the Principal may be one of the two) are appointed in each of those Church of England Academies; and
- (b) having regard to their entitlement under the Relevant Funding Agreement to appoint up to one fifth of teaching staff as Reserved Teachers in each of those Church of England Academies.

107E. In appointing staff other than the Principal to those Church of England academies that immediately prior to becoming academies were voluntary aided schools, the Directors shall have regard to the powers provided to them under s.124A of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### **MEETINGS OF THE DIRECTORS**

108. Subject to these Articles, the Directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit.

109. The Directors shall hold at least three meetings in every school year. Meetings of the Directors shall be convened by the Clerk. In exercising his functions under this Article the Clerk shall comply with any direction:

- (a) given by the Directors; or
- (b) given by the chairman of the Directors or, in his absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of chairman, the vice-chairman of the Directors, so far as such

direction is not inconsistent with any direction given as mentioned in (a).

110. Any three Directors may, by notice in writing given to the Clerk, requisition a meeting of the Directors; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to convene such a meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable.

111. Each Director shall be given at least seven clear days before the date of a meeting:

- (i) notice in writing thereof, signed by the Clerk, and sent to each Director at the address provided by each Director from time to time; and
- (ii) a copy of the agenda for the meeting,

provided that where the chairman or, in his absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of chairman, the vice-chairman, so determines on the ground that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the written notice of a meeting, and the copy of the agenda thereof are given within such shorter period as he directs.

112. The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda thereof.

113. A resolution to rescind or vary a resolution carried at a previous meeting of the Directors shall not be proposed at a meeting of the Directors unless the consideration of the rescission or variation of the previous resolution is a specific item of business on the agenda for that meeting.

114. A meeting of the Directors shall be terminated forthwith if:

- (a) the Directors so resolve; or
- (b) the number of Directors present ceases to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Directors in accordance with Article 117, subject to Article 119.

115. Where in accordance with Article 114 a meeting is not held or is terminated before all the matters specified as items of business on the agenda for the meeting have been disposed of, a further meeting shall be convened by the Clerk as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within seven days of the date on which the meeting was originally to be held or was so terminated.

116. Where the Directors resolve in accordance with Article 114 to adjourn a meeting before

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

all the items of business on the agenda have been disposed of, the Directors shall before doing so determine the time and date at which a further meeting is to be held for the purposes of completing the consideration of those items, and they shall direct the Clerk to convene a meeting accordingly.

117. Subject to Article 119 the quorum for a meeting of the Directors, and any vote on any matter thereat, shall be any three Directors, or, where greater, any one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the total number of Directors holding office at the date of the meeting.

118. The Directors may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the numbers of Directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Directors may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

119. The quorum for the purposes of:

- (i) appointing a parent Director under Articles 56;
- (ii) any vote on the removal of a Director in accordance with Article 66; and
- (iii) any vote on the removal of the chairman of the Directors in accordance with Article 90,

shall be any two-thirds (rounded up to a whole number) of the persons who are at the time Directors entitled to vote on those respective matters.

120. Subject to these Articles, every question to be decided at a meeting of the Directors shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Directors present and voting on the question. Every Director shall have one vote.

121. Subject to Articles 117 - 119, where there is an equal division of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he may have.

122. The proceedings of the Directors shall not be invalidated by

- (a) any vacancy among their number; or
- (b) any defect in the election, appointment or nomination of any Director.

123. A resolution in writing, signed by all the Directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors, shall be valid and effective as if it had been

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

passed at a meeting of Directors or (as the case may be) a committee of Directors duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by one or more of the Directors.

124. Subject to Article 125, the Directors shall ensure that a copy of:

- (a) the agenda for every meeting of the Directors;
- (b) the draft minutes of every such meeting, if they have been approved by the person acting as chairman of that meeting;
- (c) the signed minutes of every such meeting; and
- (d) any report, document or other paper considered at any such meeting,

are, as soon as is reasonably practicable, made available at every Academy to persons wishing to inspect them.

125. There may be excluded from any item required to be made available in pursuance of Article 124, any material relating to:

- (a) a named teacher or other person employed, or proposed to be employed, at any Academy;
- (b) a named pupil at, or candidate for admission to, any Academy; and
- (c) any matter which, by reason of its nature, the Directors are satisfied should remain confidential.

126. Any Director shall be able to participate in meetings of the Directors by telephone or video conference provided that:

- (a) he has given notice of his intention to do so detailing the telephone number on which he can be reached and/or appropriate details of the video conference suite from which he shall be taking part at the time of the meeting at least 48 hours before the meeting; and,
- (b) the Directors have access to the appropriate equipment if after all reasonable efforts it does not prove possible for the person to participate by telephone or video conference the meeting may still proceed with its business provided it is otherwise quorate.



## **PATRONS AND HONORARY OFFICERS**

127. The Directors may from time to time appoint any person whether or not a Member of the Company to be a patron of the Company or to hold any honorary office and may determine for what period he is to hold such office.

## **THE SEAL**

128. The seal, if any, shall only be used by the authority of the Directors or of a committee of Directors authorised by the Directors. The Directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Director and by the Clerk or by a second Director.

## **ACCOUNTS**

129. Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the relevant Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and Parts 15 and 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December for each Academy Financial Year.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

130. The Directors shall prepare its Annual Report in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

## **ANNUAL RETURN**

131. The Directors shall comply with their obligations under Part 24 of the Companies Act 2006 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return to the Registrar of Companies and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and to the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

## **NOTICES**

132. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Articles (other than a notice calling a meeting of the directors) shall be in writing or shall be given using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

giving the notice. In these Articles, “address” in relation to electronic communications, includes a number or address used for the purposes of such communications.

133. A notice may be given by the Company to a Member either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address or by giving it using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified to the Company by the Member. A Member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him, or an address to which notices may be sent using electronic communications, shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address, but otherwise no such Member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Company.
134. A Member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where necessary, of the purposes for which it was called.
135. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was sent.

### **INDEMNITY**

136. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 6.3 every Director or other officer or auditor of the Company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Company.

### **RULES**

137. The Directors may from time to time make such rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Company, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, they may by such rules or bye laws regulate:

- (a) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Company's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
- (b) the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Directors and committees of the Directors and meetings of the Academy Councils in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Articles; and
- (c) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of Company rules.

138. The Company in general meeting shall have power to alter, add or to repeal the rules or bye laws but only with the consent of the Diocesan Board of Education. Provided that no rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in the Articles.

### **AVOIDING INFLUENCED COMPANY STATUS**

139. Notwithstanding the number of Members from time to time, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by Local Authority Associated Persons shall never exceed 19.9% of the total number of votes exercisable by Members in general meeting and the votes of the other Members having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.

140. No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person may be appointed as a Director if, once the appointment had taken effect, the number of Directors who are Local Authority Associated Persons would represent 20% or more of the total number of Directors. Upon any resolution put to the Directors, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by any Directors who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall represent a maximum of 19.9% of the total number of votes cast by the Directors on such a resolution and the votes of the other Directors having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.

141. No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person is eligible to be appointed to the office of Director unless his appointment to such office is authorised by the local authority to which he is associated.

142. If at the time of either his becoming a Member of the Company or his first appointment to office as a Director any Member or Director was not a Local Authority Associated

## Multi Academy Trust Model for Church of England/non Church of England Schools

Person but later becomes so during his membership or tenure as a Director he shall be deemed to have immediately resigned his membership and/or resigned from his office as a Director as the case may be.

143. If at any time the number of Directors or Members who are also Local Authority Associated Persons would (but for Articles 139 - 142 inclusive) represent 20% or more of the total number of Directors or Members (as the case may be) then a sufficient number of the Directors or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned as Directors or Members (as the case may be) immediately before the occurrence of such an event to ensure that at all times the number of such Directors or Members (as the case may be) is never equal to or greater than 20% of the total number of Directors or Members (as the case may be). Directors or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned in order of their appointment date the most recently appointed resigning first.
144. The Members will each notify the Company and each other if at any time they believe that the Company or any of its subsidiaries has become subject to the influence of a local authority (as described in section 69 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).