ACET
Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

Curriculum & Standards Committee Terms of Reference

DATE: September 2026
POLICY LEAD: Director of Governance Risk & Compliance
APPROVED BY: Trustees
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE: To be approved at the first meeting

DOCUMENT CONTROL		
Policy Level	Trust	
Approved By	Trustees	
Approval Date	September 2026	
This policy remains valid until it is reviewed and replaced; it does not expire by date alone. Policies are reviewed annually, or sooner if required by statutory or legislative changes, in line with best practice		
Policy Lead / Author	Director of Governance Risk and Compliance	
Version Number	***Date Issued***	***Updated Information***
V2	September 2026	Reviewed in line with V8 of the Scheme of Delegation

PURPOSE & RESPONSIBILITIES	The Curriculum and Standards Committee advises the Board of Trustees on matters relating to the Trust's curriculum, quality of education and standards. The Committee is also responsible for overseeing the administration, operation and governance of the Shirebrook Academy Endowment Fund. The Committee shall ensure that the Endowment Fund is managed in accordance with the Fund's Deed of Gift, Charity Commission requirements, the Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust's Investment Policy and any other applicable legal or regulatory requirements. The Committee will ensure that grants and awards are distributed fairly, transparently and in accordance with the charitable purposes of the Fund, whilst protecting the long-term value and sustainability of the Endowment. The Fund exists to support educational advancement, relieve financial hardship, provide educational opportunities and strengthen the relationship between the academy and the wider community. **The committee will monitor, evaluate and report on:** **Curriculum matters** 1. The broad educational needs of the pupils attending the trust's academies. 2. The curriculum principles which apply to all academies in the trust. 3. Receive assurance regarding the effectiveness of trust-wide school improvement activity. 4. Monitor academy performance against trust targets and improvement priorities. 5. How curriculum principles are being implemented by academies in the trust and their impact on all pupils. 6. Curriculum and quality of education issues for all academies in the trust. 7. Curriculum enrichment throughout the trust. 8. Other curriculum issues such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning. 9. Monitor curriculum accessibility and compliance with the SEND Code of Practice and Equality Act 2010. 10. Monitor the effectiveness of SEND provision and outcomes for pupils with SEND across the Trust. 11. Monitor inclusion indicators including attendance, exclusions, attainment and participation of pupils with SEND. 12. Monitor attendance, persistent absence and severe absence trends across the Trust collectively, academies and pupil groups 13. Monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding education and the embedding of safeguarding through the curriculum. 14. Monitor compliance with statutory publication requirements relating to curriculum and careers provision: a. Monitor compliance with statutory careers guidance. b. Receive assurance regarding Gatsby Benchmark implementation. Receive and consider assurance from Local Governing Bodies regarding educational performance and behaviour. **Pupil achievement** 15. Pupil achievement and standards throughout the trust, including specific groups: those with special educational needs and disability (SEND), disadvantaged, looked after children and pupils with English as an additional language.

16. The quality of teaching and learning throughout the trust, including performance and future performance trends and risks in relation to each academy.
17. Teaching capacity throughout the trust including the impact of continuing professional development on pupil achievement and standards.
18. How collaboration between academies in the trust and more widely is raising pupil achievement and wider outcomes.

Wider outcomes

19. The trust-wide approach towards ensuring all pupils are given the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to manage their lives now and in the future.
20. The trust-wide approach to improving pupils' health, wellbeing and physical literacy.
21. The trust-wide approach to building the cultural capital of pupils.
22. The trust-wide approach to promoting British values and providing pupils with a global outlook.
23. The trust-wide approach to providing pupils with effective careers education.
24. Issues related to pupil discipline such as levels of suspensions and permanent exclusions across the trust.
25. Receive assurance regarding suspensions, permanent exclusions across the Trust.
26. Monitor trends and disproportionality within suspension and exclusion data.
27. Current and emerging patterns, trends and risks relating to attendance and behaviour for all academies in the trust.
28. Current and emerging patterns, trends and risks relating to pupil wellbeing for all academies in the trust.
29. Engaging pupils, parents and the wider community in promoting and improving educational performance and wider outcomes for all pupils throughout the trust.
30. Evaluation of academy effectiveness and self-evaluation linked to the current Ofsted framework.
31. Monitor the delivery and impact of careers education across secondary academies.
32. Monitor the quality and impact of Early Years Foundation Stage provision where applicable.
33. Monitor the impact of pupil premium and other targeted funding streams on educational outcomes.
34. Monitor the Trust's school food offer to ensure standards are met and provision is inclusive.

Endowment Fund

35. Oversee the operation of the Endowment Fund on behalf of the Trust Board.
36. Ensure compliance with the Endowment Fund Deed of Gift.
37. Ensure all decisions are consistent with the charitable purposes of the Fund.
38. Maintain oversight of the Fund's governance arrangements and effectiveness.
39. Report regularly to the Trust Board on committee activity and decisions.
40. Receive and consider applications for support from the Endowment Fund.
41. Assess applications against approved eligibility criteria.
42. Ensure all applications are considered consistently, fairly and transparently.
43. Approve, reject or defer applications within delegated authority limits.
44. Request additional information where required before determining applications.

	45. Monitor the impact and effectiveness of grants awarded. 46. Receive reports from beneficiaries where appropriate. 47. Monitor the financial position of the Endowment Fund. 48. Receive reports regarding investment performance and income available for distribution. 49. Ensure awards remain affordable within available annual funding. 50. Monitor grant commitments and expenditure. 51. Receive assurance that investments are managed prudently and in accordance with professional advice and applicable guidance. 52. Ensure the capital value of the Endowment Fund is protected and preserved except where otherwise permitted by the Deed of Gift. 53. Monitor compliance with relevant legislation, charity requirements and Trust policies. 54. Ensure conflicts of interest are appropriately declared and managed. 55. Receive reports regarding any actual or suspected fraud, irregularity or misuse of Endowment Fund resources. 56. Escalate significant concerns to the Audit & Risk Committee and Trust Board where appropriate. 57. Review annual reports on the operation and impact of the Fund. 58. Promote awareness of the Endowment Fund amongst eligible beneficiaries. 59. Ensure the Fund continues to support educational opportunities and community benefit in line with its objectives. 60. Review the social and educational impact of awards and grants made.
POLICIES AND COMPLIANCE	Review and recommend for approval Trust curriculum and standards policies delegated through the Scheme of Delegation, the Endowment Fund Policy, Endowment Fund Scheme of Delegation and any other policies or procedures relating to the operation of the Fund.
MEMBERSHIP	The Curriculum and Standards Committee will consist of no fewer than four Trustees. Members of the committee are appointed annually. The Curriculum & Standards Committee is responsible to the Board. The Committee's Terms of Reference are adopted by the Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Board. The Chair and Vice Chair of the committee will be elected annually by the Committee. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the vice chair shall act as chair for the purpose of the meeting. Members of the Executive Team may be in attendance and shall attend meetings as and when required by the Chair.
QUORUM	Article 117. States: Subject to Article 119, the quorum for a meeting of the Trustees, and any vote on any matter thereat, shall be any **three** Trustees, or where greater, any one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the total number of Trustees holding office at the date of the meeting, who are in each case present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matters to be resolved.
MEETINGS	The Governance Leader shall be the Clerk to the Committee. The agenda for meetings will be agreed in advance by the Chair of the committee and papers will be circulated to members and attendees at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting. Minutes of meetings will be taken and will be submitted in the next scheduled meeting of the Board, once approved in draft by the Chair.

	The committee will meet at least once per term. The Chair or any two members may call an additional meeting. All meetings will have a hybrid function.