



Department
for Education

School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool Checklist

Reference AF492561802

Organisation details

Company number: 07445392

Trust name: Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Summary of Questions and Answers

Governance

Question 1 Have the Chief Financial Officer, Accounting Officer and chair of trustees read the Academy Trust Handbook, noting changes from last year? Yes

Question 1a Do they understand their role in complying with the trust's charitable objects, with company and charity law, and with the funding agreement? Yes

Question 2 Has the board assessed its composition during the year in terms of skills, effectiveness, leadership and impact? Yes

Both the Full GB and the Governors' Management Committee review GB membership, associated skills and requirements on a termly basis. The last formal audit of GB skills was completed and analysed in Summer 2021 as Governor movement has been minimal since that date.

Question 3	Does the board have a plan in place to address any gaps in its capabilities through recruitment, induction, training or other development activity?	Yes
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The Governors' Management Committee always assesses any skills deficit prior to electing new Governors, and the needs of the GB are advertised accordingly. External training is available from the NGA, Juniper Education (formerly ECC) and the Billericay Teaching Alliance for all Governors to attend in relation to both general governance as well as their specific areas of governance oversight. All new governors are expected to complete their initial qualification of Governor Competency plus any

Question 4	Has the board appointed the senior executive leader as accounting officer?	Yes
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The headteacher was formally appointed as the school accounting officer by the Full GB on 15/10/19.

Question 4a	Has the board assured itself that the senior leader has appropriate skills to fulfil their role as accounting officer in accordance with the financial responsibilities of the duty to the public purse?	Yes
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Question 5	Has the board appointed a qualified and/or experienced chief financial officer (CFO)?	Yes
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A qualified and experienced Business Manager was appointed in January 2019.

Question 6	Has the board appointed a governance professional who is someone other than a trustee, principal or chief executive of the trust?	Yes
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The current Clerk to Governors has been in place since September 2008.

Question 7	How many times has the board met in the last year?	5
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Question 7a	If less than 6 times, has the board explained in the governance statement how it has maintained effective oversight and regulatory compliance?	Yes
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Question 8	Has the trust held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) with members in the last 12 months?	Yes
Question 8b	What percentage of members attended the AGM? 75%	
Question 9	Has the board approved a written scheme of financial delegation?	Yes
Question 10	Does the trust have a finance committee (or equivalent) with clear terms of reference and a knowledgeable and experienced chair? Where the finance committee and audit and risk committee are separate, the chair should not be the same.	Yes
Question 11	Does the trust have an audit and risk committee?	Yes, it's combined with another committee
Question 11a	Does the audit and risk committee reflect minimum good practice by precluding employees from its membership?	Yes
Question 11b	How many times has the audit and risk committee met in the last 12 months?	5
Question 12	Are trustees assured that risks are managed and a risk register is maintained?	Yes
Question 13	Does the academy trust operate in accordance with all of the requirements in the Academy Trust Handbook to identify and avoid conflicts of interest, and to report and manage related party transactions?	Yes
Question 14	Has the trust published its governance arrangements on its website in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook?	Yes

Trust financial strategy

Question 15	Has the board of trustees carried out a going concern assessment of the trust to inform the basis of the preparation for financial statements?	Yes
Question 15a	Can the board clearly evidence the information and data used to inform this assessment and the assumptions made?	Yes
Question 16	Can the trust evidence that its three-year financial forecast has been reviewed by the trustees before approval?	Yes
Question 17	Can the trust evidence that trustees have taken financial performance in previous years into account (e.g., adjustments for areas of significant underspend or overspend)?	Yes
Question 18	Are the assumptions behind the three-year forecast, including pupil number projections, documented and challenged by the board?	Yes
Question 19	If a cumulative deficit has been forecast within the three-year budget, is there a plan to mitigate it?	Not Applicable
Question 20	Is the financial strategy integrated with the trust's strategy for raising standards and attainment?	Yes
Question 21	Does the trust survey its physical estate and ensure appropriate capital provision in budget setting?	Yes
Question 21a	Are trustees aware of their duties under health and safety legislation?	Yes
Question 21b	Does the trust have an estate vision, strategy and asset management plan?	Yes

Question 22	Does the trust have an appropriate business continuity plan, including adequate insurance cover?	Yes
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Setting the Annual Budget

Question 23	Does the trust set a well-informed and balanced budget which is approved, in advance, by the board?	Yes
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Question 24	Does the budget setting process allow sufficient time for the trust board to scrutinise and challenge the information provided?	Yes
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Question 25	Do trustees challenge pupil number assumptions and can the trust move quickly to recast the budget if the projections and reality are materially different?	Yes
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Question 26	Is end year outturn in line with budget projections, or if not, is the trust board alerted to significant variations in a timely manner, and do they result from planned changes or from genuinely unforeseeable circumstances?	Yes
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Question 27	Are balances at a reasonable level and does the trust have a clear plan for using the money it plans to hold in balance at the end of each year?	Yes
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Staffing

Question 28	Does the trust review and challenge its staffing structure regularly to ensure it is the best structure to meet the needs of the trust whilst maintaining financial integrity?	Yes
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Question 29	Is the pay of senior leaders tightly correlated to strong educational outcomes and sound financial management?	Yes
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Question 30	Does the trust benchmark the size of the senior leadership team annually against that of similar schools?	Yes
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Question 31	Has the academy trust published on its website the number of employees whose total benefits exceeded £100k?	Yes
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Value for money

Question 32	Does the trust benchmark its income and expenditure and that of its schools annually against that of similar trusts and schools and investigate further where any category appears to be out of line?	Yes
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Question 33	Has the trust considered the results of the self-assessment dashboard or other DfE benchmarking tools?	Yes
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Question 34	Does the trust have procedures for purchasing goods and services that both meet legal requirements and secure value for money?	Yes
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Question 35	Are the trustees given the opportunity to challenge their staffs' plans for replacing contracts for goods and services that are due to expire shortly?	Yes
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Question 36	Does the trust consider collaboration with others, for example on sharing staff or joint purchasing, where that would improve value for money?	Yes
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Question 37	Does the trust compare its non-staff expenditure against the DfE approved frameworks to ensure best value for money?	Yes
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Protecting public money

Question 38	Are the trustees sure that there are no outstanding matters from audit reports?	Yes
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Question 39	Are the internal scrutiny arrangements, as defined in the Academy Trust Handbook, adhered to?	Yes
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Question 40	Does the trust regularly review its internal control arrangements to safeguard against fraud, theft and cybercrime by staff, contractors, suppliers and other third parties?	Yes
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Question 41	Are all staff aware of the trust's whistleblowing arrangements and to whom they should report concerns?	Yes
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Question 42	Does the trust have an accounting system that is adequate and properly run and delivers accurate reports, including the required returns to ESFA?	Yes
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Your details

Name:	Mrs Melissa Mulgrew
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Email address:	mmulgrew@cchs.co.uk
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Accounting officer details

Name	Mr Stephen Lawlor
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Role of accounting officer	principal
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Declaration

The information submitted in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I confirm that the accounting officer has been sighted on the information being submitted and arrangements are being established of the trust to move towards compliance with the mandatory requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

I confirm that the trust board has been sighted on the information being submitted and has approved this. (If not, please ensure that this is shared with the trustees at the next trust board)

Submission date:

02 March 2023
