

CHANGE OF CCHS ACADEMY TRUST GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Situation

There has been a change to DfE and ESFA guidance on the preferred Governance structure for academies and the CCHS Governing Body has agreed that it will change its current structure to align with the new recommended structure. This requires the School to separate its current academy trust Members away from the Governing Body and find three additional people to act as Members for the academy trust. The current Chair and Vice Chair of Governors will remain as Company Members, making five Company Members in total.

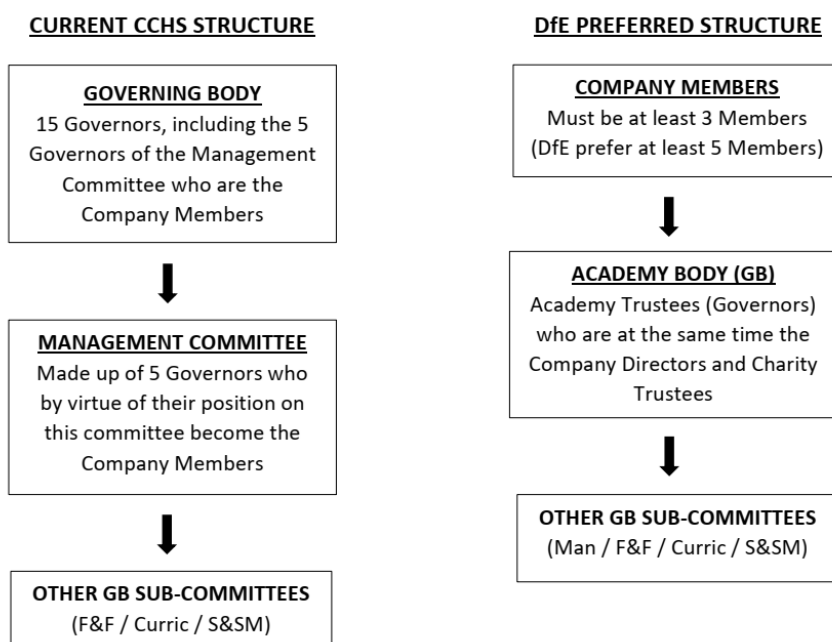
Background

- The revised DfE Governance Handbook published in October 2020, a new DfE document entitled 'Academy Trust Governance – Structures and Role Descriptors' also published in October 2020, and the Academies Financial Handbook for September 2020 all contained new guidance on the preferred structure for academies, in particular academy members.
- All academy trusts have both trustees (governors) and members. CCHS converted to an academy trust on 1st January 2011 and the trust's Articles of Association (based on the DfE model at the time) are written such that the governors are the company directors and that the incumbents of the Management Committee are the company members.
- On conversion the Headteacher remained an ex-officio governor and, as a member of the Management Committee, automatically became a Company Member. Based on the new, preferred academy structure Headteacher was removed from being a Company Member with effect from 1st March 2021.

Note: DfE uses the term trustee in all its documents whilst CCHS still uses the term governor.

New Guidance

The relevant change in the guidance is that academy members should be a separate level above, and ideally not the same people as, the trust board (Full GB) as shown below.



In addition, the DfE have a strong preference that employees are not trustees ie Governors, with the exception of the Headteacher, as they state that there is a general conflict of interest.

Summary of CCHS Structure Change – September 2023

<u>Current Structure</u>	<u>New Structure - Sep 23</u>
<p>Current Members are the Members of the Governing Body’s Management Committee excluding the Headteacher</p>	<p><u>Members (5)</u> Three new external Members Chair of Governors & Vice Chair of Governors</p>
<p><u>Governing Body (17)</u> Up to 10 Nominated Governors At least 2 and no more than 4 Parent Governors 2 Staff Governors Headteacher</p>	<p><u>Governing Body (17)</u> Up to 12 Nominated Governors A minimum of 2 Parent Governors (will have 4) Headteacher</p>
<p>Plus any Associate Members and up to 3 Co-opted Governors as agreed by the GB</p>	<p>Plus any Associate Members and any number of Co-opted Governors as agreed by the GB</p>