



PolyMAT Members role description

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Members role description Members work together to carry out their core functions:

The role of the Members is laid out in the Articles of Association and in company law. Their role is that of guardians of the constitution, ensuring the charitable object is fulfilled and to conduct oversight of the Trust Board. Members have limited governance and no day-to-day management responsibilities.

Role

Members play a limited but crucial role in safeguarding academy trust governance. While they must ensure they do not stray into undertaking the Academy Trustees' role, they should assure themselves that the governance of the trust is effective, that Academy Trustees are acting in accordance with the trust's charitable object(s) and that they, the Members, use their powers to step in if governance is failing. Academy trusts are founded by Members, who may then appoint additional Members to join them. The first Members are the signatories to the memorandum of association which is drawn up when the academy trust is first established. These first Members agree the academy trust's first articles of association, which include the academy trust's charitable purpose.

Members should not be involved in the day-to-day business of the academy trust and must ensure they do not assume the powers of the Academy Trustees. However, they do have an important role in an academy trust, based on a number of key powers set out in the Articles of Association and in company law. These include powers to appoint and remove the board and direct the Academy Trustees to act in certain circumstances. Members have a general duty to exercise their powers to further the academy trust's charitable object, which in the majority of trusts is 'to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom'. It is essential that Members are aware of the powers available to them and know when and how to use those powers effectively.

The Members' key responsibilities are:

- to ensure the Objects of the Trust are met; (advancing education for the public benefit)
- to receive the Annual Report (prepared by the Trustees) at a General Meeting of the Trust;
- to appoint the Trust's auditors;
- to determine the Trust's constitution by adopting the company's Articles;
- to exercise either a direct power under the Articles or a statutory power;
- to appoint and remove Trustees (noting any powers delegated by the Members to the Trust Board to make such appointments and removals).
- Members appoint new Members

The Academy Trust's objects ("the Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a. to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing
 - i) schools ("Mainstream Academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum, or

- ii) ii) educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("Alternative Provision Academies"), or
- iii) 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("16 to 19 Academies"), or
- iv) schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("Special Academies")

b. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

The Governance Model at PolyMAT Multi Academy Trust:

The model of Governance for PolyMAT is outlined in the Articles of Association as:

- o · Upto 5 x Independent Members
- o · 9 x Independent Trustees
- o · Local Advisory Committees at each setting

Contribution

- Members should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution by:
- ensuring they are familiar with the articles of association and funding agreement.
- attending meetings of the members, reading papers and preparing questions for the senior executive leader in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior executive leaders and colleagues on the board of Members and Trust Board
- getting to know schools within the trust, including visiting occasionally on invitation
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis

Expenses

Members may receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as trustee (see expenses policy). Payments can cover incidental expenses, such as travel and dependency care, but not loss of earnings.

