

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
Terms of Reference for the
School Ethos Committee

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 22nd January 2019

To be reviewed January 2020

Adopted by the XXX Local Governing Body on TBC

<i>Document Control</i>	
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Authorised By	Board Of Trustees
Published Location	
Other documents referenced	
Related documents	

<i>Version Control</i>			
	Date issued	Author	Update information
V1.0	XX	IC / SW	First published version
V2.0	22/1/19	ML/SW	Revised version.

[Field]Terms of Reference for Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust Ethos Committees/Parent Forums for Individual Schools

The Ethos Committee/Parent Forum's role is to ensure that the MAT's Values, Vision and Aims are embedded in the actions and activities of XXXXXX school. Furthermore, for a Church School this responsibility will include the values of the Church of England whilst for a non-Church School it will include the Co-operative Values set out in the MATs Statement of Intent.

The Committee's role is also to ensure that the voice of its local community in connection with the school is being fed back to the MAT Trustees.

1. Constitution

- 1.1. The Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT) Board of Trustees has resolved to establish an Ethos Committee or Parent Forum for each school to advise it and the Local Governing Body on matters relating to the Trust's values to ensure that the values set out in its vision statement are embedded in all actions. This remit includes ensuring that the voice of the local community in connection with the school is being fed back to the LGB and Trust. It is expected that church school Ethos Committees will be more formal in nature as required by their membership and structure (laid out below in section 4.1)
- 1.2. The Committee/Forum is responsible to the Local Governing Body who are in turn answerable to the DMAT Ethos Committee.
- 1.3. The Committee/Forum's Terms of Reference are adopted by the DMAT Board and may only be amended with the approval of that Board.

2. Authority

- 2.1. The Committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it. It is authorised to request any information it requires from any employee of the school and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee.
- 2.2. The Committee may ask any individual to attend these meetings if required to answer challenge and ensure that any concerns could be discussed prior to intervention

3. Main Duties

The main purposes of this committee are:

- to preserve and develop the Christian character and/or the Co-Operative values and the distinctiveness of the school
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school's leadership and management with regard to the maintenance of Church School/or Co-Operative values.
- to ensure the pastoral care of the children and staff including how the school meets the needs of learners through its distinctive Christian character and teaching and/or through its implementation of the Co-Operative values.

- ensure that the voice of the local community, in particular, but not exclusively parents staff and children is understood.

In addition, for Church Schools:

- to promote the relationship between the Church and the school.
- to review and develop Collective Worship where applicable
- to review and develop Religious Education
- monitor and take forward the SIAMS action plan where applicable keeping the following matters in mind SIAMS framework which contain 4 key questions:
 1. How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
 2. What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
 3. How effective is the Religious Education?
 4. How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

4. Administration

4.1 Membership for Ethos Committee/Parent Forum:

- a senior member of staff
- parents (including if applicable a parent governor)
- representatives of the local community

In addition, for a church school Ethos Committee

- a local church representative
- the member of staff responsible for RE and collective worship
- a foundation governor

4.2 The Chair of the church school Ethos Committee will be elected each year by the Committee Members.

4.3 The Committee/Parent Forum will meet at least once per term.

4.4 The Committee/Parent Forum will produce minutes or a report for submission to the Local Governing Body and the MAT's Ethos Committee.

4.5 The Ethos Committee/Parent Forum will self-assess its performance against these Terms of Reference on an annual basis and will also review the Terms of Reference, submitting any proposed changes to the Board for approval.