



SCHOOLS COMPANY

## Central Devon Academy

### Annual Governance Statement

October 2017

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Local Governing Body of South and West Devon Academy

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff,
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and ensuring its money is well spent.

About our Academy	<p>Central Devon Academy is an Alternative Provision Academy Sponsored by The SchoolsCompany Trust providing full time education for children from 4-16 years of age. We cover Central Devon including Exeter, East Devon and Mid Devon and work closely with Devon County Council to ensure a swift transition both into and out of the Academy to minimise the impact of any transition on the learning of those young people.</p> <p>We recognise that it is essential to build positive relationships and create a safe, nurturing and non-confrontational environment in order to enable students to engage with learning and make progress. We are committed to equal opportunities and will endeavour to support students to reach their full potential regardless of gender, race, ability and age.</p> <p>We aim to enable all students to raise their levels of attainment. Through regular assessment, reviewing and reporting each student will have clear learning goals to enable them to make substantial and sustained progress.</p>
Governing Body Constitution	<p>Since joining the Schools Company Multi Academy Trust, the governance structure has changed and now operates as a Local Governing Board. Above the LGB sit the Board of Directors for the Multi Academy Trust, one of whom acts as a Trust Governor, alongside the Executive Principal.</p> <p>The LGB constitution is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Parent governors</li> <li>2 Staff governors (one of whom is the Principal)</li> <li>2 Community governors</li> <li>1 Trust Governor</li> <li>The Executive Principal</li> </ul> <p>Membership of the LGB is regularly assessed in terms of skills represented on the Board and we actively seek to recruit governors who can help us to fill any gaps in our expertise. There is currently a vacancy for 2 community governors.</p>
Attendance	<p>Governors’ attendance at meetings this last year has been generally good and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “Quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>You can see a full list of the governors and their attendance at meetings on the school website.</p>



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<p>Governing Body Structure</p>	<p>The local governing board meet four times a year. The meetings centre around the governors holding the Principal to account for areas such as SEND provision, Pupil Premium spending, student progress and the quality of teaching and learning.</p> <p>All our Local Governing Board meetings are clerked by a professional clerk. Minutes are available from the Academy office on request.</p>
<p>Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing Body</p>	<p>Effective governance is based on 6 key features. The governors have therefore summarised their activities for the academic year 2016-17 under these headings:</p> <p><b>Strategic Leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy</b></p> <p>The MAT vision of Passion, Ability and Determination has been set by the Trust and the LGB have looked at ways in which they can monitor the embedding of this vision through the Principal’s report to governors and by focussing on implicit and explicit examples of the vision in their visits to the Academy.</p> <p>Strategic planning has looked at management of fluctuating pupil numbers and the ongoing question of how that can be managed effectively, alongside the monitoring of teaching standards and student progress within the Academy.</p> <p>Visits have been made to the Academy by the Regional Schools Commissioner and by Babcock, both of which have resulted in positive feedback.</p> <p><b>Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance</b></p> <p>Over the last Academic year, governors have focussed, with training from the Director for Teaching and Learning, on how to look at the new data sets which are issued termly. Governors have been coached on the types of questions to be asking based on these data sets and the new non-negotiables and aspirational target setting issued by the Trust Board.</p> <p>Financial performance has been dealt with at Trust Board level over the last Academic year.</p> <p><b>People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity</b></p> <p>The LGB have been successful achieving consistency in governor membership to the Board. A new Chair was appointed to the role this academic year and has focussed on improving the level of challenge offered by the Board, whilst offering a good level of support to the SLT.</p> <p>It remains difficult to recruit community governors to the role due to the time commitment required and the Board retains a vacancy for two community governors.</p> <p><b>Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities</b></p> <p>The LGB have a clear set of delegations to work from and have accepted that these focus their role on student progress and holding the Principal to account for this. Safeguarding has been well monitored by the safeguarding governor who attends training (Prevent and Safer recruitment this year) and visits the Academy regularly in order to fulfil her role.</p> <p><b>Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements</b></p>



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	<p>SEND, Safeguarding and Pupil Premium are held to account through challenge to the Principal's report each meeting. Governors have ensured the Equality Objectives and Accessibility Plan are in place and are regularly reviewed.</p>
	<p><b>Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality of governance</b></p> <p>Governors completed a Skills Audit at the beginning of the Academic Year and this will now be reviewed annually. Training will be undertaken across the MAT and the next training (postponed from June) will look further at data analysis. Governors joining the Board undertake new governor training from Babcock. Other individual governor training this year has included Safeguarding level 2, and Prevent.</p>
Contact Us	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the governors via the Academy office.</p>