

Member Role Description

Introduction

Soke Education Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and complies with the requirements of the Companies Acts and charity and education law. Members are the equivalent of the stakeholders in a limited company and are considered the guardians of the governance of the Trust. Whilst they have an overview of the governance arrangements, responsibility for the effectiveness of the Trust lies with the Board of Directors. To ensure robust governance and separation between each layer of governance no-one should act as both a Member and a Director.

Everyone involved in governance at the Soke Education Trust commits to the Nolan seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. This is reflected in our code of conduct which applies at all levels of governance.

All Members must read and adhere to the Trust's policies

The Members are a membership of:

- A minimum of three
- A maximum of five

Members Core Duties

- Members appoint and, where necessary, remove trustees
- Members appoint and, where necessary, remove other Members
- Members have the power to amend the Articles of Association to support stronger governance arrangements
- Members appoint the trust's auditors and receive the trust's annual audited accounts. This is done annually at the AGM.
- Every Member of the Trust undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Trust's assets if it should be wound up while they are a Member or within one year after they cease to be a Member.
- To approve new Academy conversions

Exercise of Duties

- In practice, the Members' role is limited to their meetings.

- Members can access Trust documents on its website or by request, so they can assure themselves of the effectiveness of its leadership and governance.
- Directors or Local Governors may escalate concerns to Members, where these have not been satisfactorily addressed by the Trust Board.
- Members will meet annually, at the Annual General Meeting. Any other business needing to be conducted during the year will normally be by written resolution but may be carried out either in person or virtually at a General Meeting.

Further information on the role

More information can be found in:

- The Governance Handbook at www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook
- Soke Education Trust Scheme of Delegation
- Soke Education Trust Articles of Association