

Kenton Schools Academy Trust; governance structure

Kenton Schools Academy Trust (KSAT) is a small trust responsible for the overarching accountability and governance of two schools – Kenton School and Studio West. Its **overall aim** is to secure the best possible educational opportunities for students to enable them to fulfil their potential and their aspirations.

Our vision is for our schools to provide an excellent education for every student which helps them make the best of their talents and fits them for life in modern British society.

Our values include:

- equality of opportunity, no matter what the background of the student
- putting students first and being persistent in helping them succeed
- always striving to meet the highest standards in everything we do
- valuing each and every student and employee
- collaboration before competition

We regard each academy as an equal partner in the Trust, regardless of size or length of time in the MAT.

KST Members

There are currently 3 members of the KSAT company. They have ultimate responsibility and accountability for the operation of the company.

Role of the Trust Board

The Trustees (or Directors) are responsible for setting Trust strategy, analysing and mitigating risk and for overseeing the operation and performance of all schools, including: learning standards and quality, behaviour and attendance standards, finance, staffing, policy development and compliance, statutory and regulatory compliance and reputation.

The Local Governing Bodies

Kenton School and Studio West have separate local governing bodies (LGBs) who manage the business of each academy, taking decisions about day to day operational matters. The LGBs must ensure that the academy is conducted in accordance with the ethos and values set by the Directors.

Delegation of powers

The Trust Board's intention is to bring decision making as close to the operation of each academy as possible. We want local governing bodies to be able to make decisions at local level to best meet the needs of students and the local community.

The Trust Board will normally delegate decisions on finance and procurement and on staffing to Trust sub-committees. These sub-committees must be made up of at least two Directors as well as governors from both academies. The Finance and Procurement and the Staffing Committees may remit decisions of major significance back to the Trust Board for final decision, where they see fit.

The Trust Board will normally delegate to each Local Governing Body governance responsibility for all other aspects of school performance, including curriculum and other improvements, action planning and innovations within their school and any outcomes identified in the School Scoreboard (Data Dashboard), and other performance information, within overall Trust parameters.

However, The Trust Board may take back delegated powers, intervene or direct the LGB on any matter as it sees fit, especially on issues which they have identified as high risk. In such cases, any Director associated with the school under scrutiny will invite challenge from the other Directors.

Organisational matters

It is also expected that each non-staff LGB member in each academy will carry a portfolio, taking specific responsibility for monitoring and challenge performance in one aspect of the school's performance, as determined by the LGB but likely to be in Achievement & Progress, Teaching, Behaviour & Safety, or Leadership & Management.

The Principals of Studio West and Kenton School will be accountable to the LGB for all aspects of the schools' performance and improvement, including student and school performance and standards and improvement planning. The Chief Executive will normally attend LGB meetings, as an adviser and observer. The Principals will be accountable to him as well as to the LGB and to the Chief Executive and Trust for financial and staffing issues.

The Principals of Kenton School and Studio West will account regularly to their Performance and Innovation Committee for outcomes identified in the School Scoreboard (Data Dashboard) and other performance information and for the School Improvement Plan.

The LGB may set up any further sub-committee(s) it deems necessary, but its sub-committee(s) can only be advisory, not decision-making.

The Chief Executive will be the chief accounting officer and will account to the Trustees for all aspects of the performance of Studio West and Kenton School and their Principals and will present a Risk Analysis and escalate risk and performance concerns to them.

The Chief Executive will also carry specific responsibility for the finance and human resources of the Trust and report to the appropriate Trust committees on these areas.

Please see the Articles of Association for further information.