MERCHANT TAYLORS'
OXFORDSHIRE
ACADEMY TRUST

Wallingford SCHOOL 1659

The Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust

Wallingford School Governance Structure

School governors come from every walk of life. Each individual governor is a member of a Governing Body which (in our case) is established by the trust (MTOAT), as per their Articles of Association and which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors must not act independently of the rest of the Governing Body. All decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Body.

The role of the Governing Body is a strategic one, and its key functions are to:

▲ Set the aims and objectives for the school
▲ Set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
▲ Set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
▲ Monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards the achievement of its aims and objectives
▲ Be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher (a critical friend)

The Headteacher is responsible for all operational matters, the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the Governing Body. The overall purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. All MATS and governing bodies, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have three core functions:

▲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 making sure public money is well spent.

An Introduction to MTOAT

The Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust (MTOAT) is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

Academies are publicly-funded schools that receive money directly from the government rather than via the local council. Academies are operated by an academy trust and there are a number of academy trust models that can be established, including MATs. A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is a single legal entity with overarching responsibility for the governance of all the academies within the trust. MTOAT currently operates three academies: Wallingford School, Brightwell cum Sotwell C of E Primary School and Aylesbury University Technical College.

While MTOAT is ultimately accountable for the performance of each school in the group, each academy has their own Local Governing Body which operates subject to their scheme of delegation from MTOAT. The focus of the trust is to provide overall leadership, guidance and a consistent set of defining principles across the academies within the trust. The trust will also aim to promote strategic collaboration between academies within the trust to improve and maintain high educational standards across a number of academies. For each academy within the trust, the trust has established a Local Governing Body (LGB), to which it delegates the majority of strategic decisions for each academy as well as the primary oversight of those academies.

All staff are employed by one employer (MTOAT) and several operational functions are provided to all the academies by MTOAT, including HR, payroll and legal support.

Key Defining principles for the MTOAT Academies

- Ethical
- Comprehensive
- Serve the community
- Striving for excellence/continuous improvement
- Supported by Operational Excellence

MTOAT Governance Structure

The governance structure of MTOAT operates at three levels, as set out in the Articles of Association of the trust: Members, Directors (aka Trustees) and Governors.

The Members of the MAT are the equivalent of the shareholders in a commercial company (save that they do not receive dividends). MTOAT currently has three individual and two corporate Members. The corporate Members are the Merchant Taylors' Company and the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE). The Members' powers are set out in the Articles and include appointing and removing Directors, appointing and removing Members and appointing auditors.

Overall responsibility for the governance and performance of the MAT and all the academies within the MAT sits with the MTOAT Board of Directors. The board includes the Chief Executive of the trust (who is also the Headteacher of Wallingford School) and several individuals with many years of experience as school Governors. MTOAT's Finance Director and the Operations Director and Company Secretary, also attend board meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

The Local Governing Bodies are the third tier of governance within the MAT with responsibility

for individual academies. Governors are appointed to the LGBs in a variety of ways, as set out in the scheme of delegation for the LGB.

In addition to the Local Governing Bodies, the Trust board has currently established two specific committees, the MTOAT Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and the MTOAT Resources Committee (MRC). An audit committee is a requirement for all academy trusts and its role is to ensure that the trust and all the academies adhere to the financial rules established by the trust. The finance role of the resources committee is to monitor the overall financial performance of the trust, including reviewing the annual budget proposed by each LGB as well as the overall budget for the trust.

MTOAT Directors

Ken McCrea (Chair)
Neil Carberry (Vice Chair)
John Marston (CEO)
Lynda Atkins
Annie Eggar
Linda Hull
Jon Pebworth
Sarah Rodda
Michael Stanes
Tim Vallings

Wallingford School Governing Body

Generally, the governing body comprises 5 parent governors, 5 community governors or Trust-appointed governors, the Headteacher, 2 staff governors and 1 Merchant Taylors' Company sponsor governor

Name	Governor Type
Ian Skeels (Chair)	Trust appointed governor
Emma Keene (Vice Chair)	Community governor
David Beresford-Green	Community governor
Gemma Brock	Parent governor
Jeremy Cuthbert	Parent governor
Matthew Davies	MTC sponsor governor
Alison Debney	Parent governor
Sarah Dow	Staff governor
Yvonne Hammond	Staff governor
John Marston	Headteacher
John Peel	Community governor
Martin Pipe	Parent governor
Maddie Wheeler	Parent governor
Ian Williams	Trust appointed governor