



Academy member: role description

What are members?

In every MAT, there are three tiers of governance. In the top tier sit the members. Trustees are below that and governors (if the trust has them) on the third.

The guardians of the MAT are the members. They have a limited and distinct role.

Members are not exclusive to academy trusts – most charitable companies have members as a result of the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. All academy trusts are set up as charitable companies, so they too must have members.

Responsibilities

Members hold the trust to account but they have a minimal role in the actual running of the trust. The trust board are the organisation's key decision makers.

The role of members is as follows. They:

- sign the memorandum and articles of association;
- determine the name of the trust;
- appoint members and trustees;
- appoint and remove the auditors;
- receive the annual accounts and report (which is signed off by trustees);
- ensure the success of the trust;
- decide when they should meet; and,
- if matters come to an impossible pass, dissolve the trust.

A key responsibility of the members is holding the board of trustees to account, assessing if it is performing efficiently and effectively to ensure that the purpose of the trust is being met and its charitable status fulfilled.

Time commitment

The members meet, usually once a year at an annual general meeting. AGMs are currently held virtually, or at S9 1SG when safe to do so. We are comfortable with remote meeting attendance for those individuals who are not local to the Sheffield City Region.

Additional information

If you have any questions or would like know more about becoming an academy member, you can get in touch with the Chair of trust board at enquiries@fiveriversmat.uk