

TCAT MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Governance arrangements

March 2023 update



The TCAT Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) comprises just one academy – the Kickstart Academy. Oversight and accountability are the responsibility of a single governing board, known as the Kickstart Board. The members of the board can be referred to as governors, although they are also trustees (as schools are an exempt charity) and company directors (as the MAT is registered at Companies House).

Telford College is the original sponsor of the Kickstart Academy.

The Learning Community Trust has agreed in principle to transfer the Kickstart Academy to their trust and this is being worked towards.

Governors/members of the Kickstart Board (as at March 2023) are as follows:

- Gail Bleasby, Chair of the TCAT MAT/Kickstart Board
- Andy Cooke
- Georgia Coultas, Staff governor
- Tony Fathers, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee
- Graham Guest, CEO of the TCAT MAT/Accounting Officer
- Emma Rennie-Gibbons, Headteacher staff governor
- Gerard Shirley, Parent governor

The meetings of the Kickstart Board are also attended by:

- Emma Caesar, Chief Finance Officer
- Steph Morley, Clerk to the TCAT MAT/Kickstart Academy
- Paul Roberts, Executive Director (Schools & Academies) – Learning Community Trust
- Rachael Wilson, Assistant Principal – Telford College

The Kickstart Board, as the governing body, has three core functions:

- To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the trust
- To hold leaders to account for organisational performance
- To ensure the proper management of the trust's finances and resources, and value for money

Key to carrying out these core functions is understanding the school (its strengths and challenges) and providing support and constructive challenge to the school's leaders.

To help carry out these functions, the Kickstart Board meets four times per year – this year meetings are scheduled in December, March, May and July.

The Finance & Audit Committee (F&AC) is a committee of the governing body. The F&AC meets approximately four times per year, prior to the Kickstart Board.

The main responsibilities of the F&AC are:

- Ensuring sound management of finances and resources
- Fulfilling the trust's responsibilities in relation to financial management, risk management and internal control
- Advising the Board on the adequacy and effectiveness of the trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money, systems and processes
- Advising the Board on the appointment, reappointment, dismissal and the remuneration of auditors
- Advising the Board on the audit programme of work and monitor the implementation of resulting actions