

## Local Academy Committee (LAC) Report (2022/2023)

Welcome to this year's LAC Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Academy Trust and the work of All Saints National Academy LAC members. As an intrinsic part of the leadership of the academy, we would like to share with you the judgements governors have made during the year and the impact these decisions have had on the progress and achievements of the school and its children.

St. Chad's Academies Trust continues to provide the accountable framework for the school ensuring that children flourish and improve, whilst preserving the school's Christian distinctiveness. The LAC works on behalf of the Trust to deliver its delegated responsibilities. It is responsible for the conduct of the academy and for promoting high standards. The LAC aims to ensure that children attend a successful academy which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

- Who are we?

Local Academy Committee Members are volunteers from all walks of life who share an interest in the wellbeing of the academy and its children. As well as having a range of knowledge, skills and experience, we try to ensure that LAC Members are representative of all stakeholders.

The board consists of

- Parents - These places are filled by election. All parents and carers of children at the academy are:

**Eligible to stand.**

- ☒ A member of the academy Senior Leadership Team, usually the Principal
- ☒ Representatives of the teaching and support staff.

- And Foundation LAC Members who are appointed by the Trust. These can be members of the church, the local community or partner organisations.

Although, over the last few years, parents have become more actively involved in different aspects of the academy, we have always found it difficult to recruit parent representatives. We will continue to look at innovative ways of supporting parents to become LAC Members.

To find out more about the role of the LAC Members and who we are, please visit our academy website. There you will find a short pen portrait for each member of the LAC Members.

- Role of LAC

All Saints' LAC Member's contribute to the work of the Trust by ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the academy by:

- ensuring the academy's vision, ethos and strategic direction reflect those of St. Chad's Academies Trust;
- holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the academy and its pupils; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the academy, making sure money is well spent.

- Governance

Although at All Saints National Academy we are fortunate to have a dedicated LAC with a good breadth of skills and experience, we still need to continually evaluate our own effectiveness. This year we have looked critically at our delegated roles and responsibilities and have been working on ways of ensuring the work of the LAC Members is more focused, productive and meetings are more effective. We are now looking at how technology can be used to make us more efficient.

Over the past year, Mr. Dean and his staff have worked hard to give children the best start in life but education is a team effort between parents, children, teachers and LAC Members. When we go into the academy we see the

staff's passion and commitment to children but they need parents and the wider communities help, enthusiasm and involvement in all aspects of school life to make sure every child progresses and achieves.

This year LAC members have been looking at how the partnership between all stakeholders can be strengthened. We have started work on improving communication between staff and governors, now we want to look at how parents and children can be more actively involved in the decision making process.

A key role of the LAC is to ensure that children develop and progress, however we appreciate that for this to happen, children must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe learning environment. We have therefore been working with St. Chad's Human Resources department, to look at ways of working that ensure staff feel valued and supported.

- Christian Distinctiveness

As a Church of England academy, the LAC are responsible for fostering the Christian values and ethos of the academy. Located within a multi-cultural community, Governor have worked with the school to development a range of strategies in order to be distinctive and effective. In June (2016) the academy was inspected under the National Society's framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The aim of the inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school *as a church school*. We are very proud to announce that the school was awarded an 'Outstanding' grade.

- Academy Improvement

LAC Members have an ambition for school improvement and challenge the academy to achievement the best outcomes for the children's learning, whilst keeping their safety and welfare at the forefront of all our decision making. LAC Members support and challenge the decisions made about children's education. We monitor improvements through regular visits to undertake learning walks, meet staff, attend training, observe children's attitudes to learning and monitor children's achievement through scrutiny of progress reports from academy leaders.

To better fulfil our role we have introduced link LAC Members, where members of staff and LAC Members lead on at least one aspect of academy life, working as a strong team to improve and raise standards. All LAC Members are committed to visiting the academy at least termly to meet with staff and children from a particular year group.

- Value for Money

Although St. Chad's Academies Trust are responsible for the management of academy finances, LAC Members ensure that the budget reflects the priorities of the academy development plan for the year ahead, and check the impact of specific funding on children's attainment and achievements.

Located within one of Walsall's most deprived area an important priority is to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged children and others. Additional funding has been allocated by the government to support this process. This year LAC Members have audited the impact of this funding (pupil premium) on outcomes for children. The exercise helped us evaluate how the funding is being used and whether it represents value for money. An action plan has been put in place to address the issues raised.

- What's next?

Each academic year brings new challenges and demands, this year is no exception. Within the next few months we are expecting an OFSTED inspection, when the academy is put under a critical spotlight. With the changes to the OFSTED inspection framework our role as LAC Members is even more critical in ensuring that the academy in partnership with parents enables every child to grow and develop educationally and emotionally.

We believe that every child deserves to succeed, it is the governing body role to facilitate, through involvement and challenge, their journey through this part of their education.