

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

**A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**HART SCHOOLS TRUST**

**COMPANY NUMBER 7791933**

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1. **PRELIMINARY**

The model articles of association for private companies limited by guarantee contained in Schedule 2 to The Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 in force on the date when these Articles become binding on the Company ("**Model Articles**") apply to the Company except in so far as they are excluded or varied by these Articles.

2. **INTERPRETATION**

2.1 In these Articles the following expressions have the following meanings unless inconsistent with the context:

<b>"the Academies"</b>	all the schools referred to in <b>Article 3.1</b> and established by the Company (and "Academy" shall mean any one of those schools)
<b>"Academy Financial Year"</b>	the academic year from 1 September to 31 August in any year
<b>"Academy Directors"</b>	the Directors appointed pursuant to Articles <b>11.1-11.2</b> and Academy Director shall mean any one of those Directors
<b>"Additional Directors"</b>	the Directors appointed pursuant to <b>Article 14.3</b> and <b>14.4</b>
<b>"the Articles"</b>	these Articles of Association of the Company
<b>"Chief Inspector"</b>	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills or his successor
<b>"clear days"</b>	in relation to the period of a notice means the period excluding the day when the notice is given or demanded to be given and the day on which it is given or on which it is to take effect
<b>"the Company"</b>	save as otherwise defined at <b>Article 3.11</b> the company intended to be regulated by these Articles and referred to in <b>Article 2.5</b>
<b>"the Directors"</b>	save as otherwise defined at <b>Article 3.11</b> the directors of the Company (and " <b>Director</b> " means any one of those directors)
<b>"Financial Expert"</b>	an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000
<b>"Further Directors"</b>	the Directors appointed pursuant to <b>Article 14.5</b>
<b>"the LAs"</b>	all the local authorities covering the areas in which the Academies are situated (and " <b>the LA</b> " shall mean any one of these local authorities
<b>"Local Authority Associated Persons"</b>	any person associated with any local authority within the meaning given in section 69 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

<b>"Local Governing Bodies"</b>	the committees appointed pursuant to <b>Articles 23.1 to 23.3</b> (and <b>"Local Governing Body"</b> means any of these committees)
<b>"Managing Director"</b>	such person as may be appointed by the Directors as the managing director of the Company
<b>"Member"</b>	a member of the Company and someone who as such is bound by the undertaking contained in <b>Article 3.13</b>
<b>"the Memorandum"</b>	the Memorandum of Association of the Company
<b>"Office"</b>	the registered office of the Company
<b>"Parent Directors"</b>	the Directors appointed pursuant to <b>Articles 12.2 to 12.6</b> inclusive
<b>"Parent Local Governor"</b>	the parent member of a Local Governing Body elected or appointed in accordance with <b>Articles 12.2-12.6</b>
<b>"Principals"</b>	the head teachers of the Academies (and <b>"Principal"</b> means any one of these head teachers)
<b>"Principal Regulator"</b>	the body or person appointed as the Principal Regulator under the Charities Act 2006
<b>"Relevant Funding Agreements"</b>	the agreement or agreements entered into by the Company and the Secretary of State under section 1 of the Academies Act 2010 for the establishment of each Academy, including any variation or supplemental agreements thereof
<b>"the Seal"</b>	the common seal of the Company if it has one
<b>"Secretary"</b>	the secretary of the Company or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Company, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary
<b>"Secretary of State"</b>	the Secretary of State for Education or successor
<b>"Teacher"</b>	a person employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide his services as a Teacher at one or more Academies
<b>"the United Kingdom"</b>	means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2.2 Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender. Words importing the singular number shall include the plural number, and vice versa.

2.3 Subject as aforesaid, words or expressions contained in these Articles shall, unless the context requires otherwise, bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006, as appropriate.

2.4 Any reference to a statute or statutory provision shall include any statute or statutory provision which replaces or supersedes such statute or statutory provision including any modification or amendment thereto.

2.5 The Company's name is Hart Schools Trust (and in this document it is called "**the Company**").

2.6 The Office is to be situated in England and Wales.

### 3. **OBJECTS**

3.1 The Company's objects ("**the Objects**") are specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("**the Academies**") offering a broad and balanced curriculum which includes provision for obtaining employability skills through project based learning.

3.2 In furtherance of the Objects but not further or otherwise the Company may exercise the following powers:

3.2.1 to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name of the Company;

3.2.2 to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Company shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;

3.2.3 to acquire, alter, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge and otherwise dispose of property;

3.2.4 subject to **Article 3.4** below to employ such staff, as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

3.2.5 to establish or support, whether financially or otherwise, any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects;

3.2.6 to co-operate with other charities, other independent and maintained schools, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects and to exchange information and advice with them;

3.2.7 to pay out of funds of the Company the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Company;

3.2.8 to establish, maintain, carry on, manage and develop the Academies at locations to be determined by the Directors;

3.2.9 to offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to pupils and former pupils, and otherwise to encourage and assist pupils and former pupils;

3.2.10 to provide educational facilities and services to students of all ages and the wider community for the public benefit;

3.2.11 to carry out research into the development and application of new techniques in education in particular in relation to their approach to curriculum development and delivery and to publish the results of such research, and to develop means of benefiting from the application of the experience of industry, commerce, other schools and the voluntary sector to the education of pupils in academies;

3.2.12 subject to such consents as may be required by law and/or by any contract entered into by or on behalf of the Company, to borrow and raise money for the furtherance of the Objects in such manner and on such security as the Company may think fit;

- 3.2.13 to deposit or invest any funds of the Company not immediately required for the furtherance of its Objects (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Directors consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- 3.2.14 to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that:
  - 3.2.14.1 the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Directors;
  - 3.2.14.2 every transaction is reported promptly to the Directors, the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Directors;
  - 3.2.14.3 the Directors are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;
  - 3.2.14.4 the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;
  - 3.2.14.5 all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Directors on receipt; and
  - 3.2.14.6 the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Directors;
- 3.2.15 to arrange for investments or other property of the Company to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the control of the Directors or of a Financial Expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 3.2.16 to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of Directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions of section 232 to 235 of the Companies Act 2006, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law applicable to charitable companies and any such indemnity is limited accordingly;
- 3.2.17 to establish subsidiary companies to carry on any trade or business for the purpose of raising funds for the Company;
- 3.2.18 to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for or are incidental to or conducive to the achievement of the Objects.
- 3.3 The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.
- 3.4 None of the income or property of the Company may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any Member. Nonetheless a Member who is not also a Director may:
  - 3.4.1 benefit as a beneficiary of the Company;
  - 3.4.2 be paid reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Company;
  - 3.4.3 be paid rent for premises let by the Member if the amount of the rent and other terms of the letting are reasonable and proper; and

- 3.4.4 be paid interest on money lent to the Company at a reasonable and proper rate, such rate not to exceed 2% per annum below the base lending rate of a UK clearing bank selected by the Directors, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher.
- 3.5 A Director may benefit from any indemnity insurance purchased at the Company's expense to cover the liability of the Directors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Company: Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to: (i) any claim arising from any act or omission which Directors knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Directors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and (ii) the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Directors in their capacity as directors of the Company. Further, this Article does not authorise a Director to benefit from any indemnity insurance that would be rendered void by any provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law.
- 3.6 A company, which has shares listed on a recognised stock exchange and of which any one Director holds no more than 1% of the issued capital of that company, may receive fees, remuneration and other benefit in money or money's worth from the Company.
- 3.7 A Director may at the discretion of the Directors be reimbursed from the property of the Company for reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Company, but excluding expenses in connection with foreign travel.
- 3.8 No Director may:
- 3.8.1 buy any goods or services from the Company;
- 3.8.2 sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the Company;
- 3.8.3 be employed by, or receive any remuneration from the Company (other than the Managing Director whose employment and/or remuneration is subject to the procedure and conditions in **Article 3.10**);
- 3.8.4 receive any other financial benefit from the Company, unless:
- 3.8.4.1 the payment is permitted by **Article 3.9** and the Directors follow the procedure and observe the conditions set out in **Article 3.10**;  
or
- 3.8.4.2 the Directors obtain the prior written approval of the Charity Commission and fully comply with any procedures it prescribes.
- 3.9 Subject to **Article 3.10**, a Director may:
- 3.9.1 receive a benefit from the Company in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Company;
- 3.9.2 be employed by the Company to enter into a contract for the supply of goods or services to the Company, other than for acting as a Director;
- 3.9.3 receive interest on money lent to the Company at a reasonable and proper rate not exceeding 2% per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the Directors, or 0.5%, whichever is the higher;
- 3.9.4 receive rent for premises let by the Director to the Company if the amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease are reasonable and proper.
- 3.10 The Company and its Directors may only rely upon the authority provided by **Article 3.9** if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- 3.10.1 the remuneration or other sums paid to the Director do not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances;
  - 3.10.2 the Director is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of:
    - 3.10.2.1 his or her employment, remuneration, or any matter concerning the contract, payment or benefit; or
    - 3.10.2.2 his or her performance in the employment, or his or her performance of the contract; or
    - 3.10.2.3 any proposal to enter into any other contract or arrangement with him or her or to confer any benefit upon him or her that would be permitted under **Article 3.9**; or
    - 3.10.2.4 any other matter relating to a payment or the conferring of any benefit permitted by **Article 3.9**;
  - 3.10.3 the Director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Directors is present at the meeting;
  - 3.10.4 save in relation to employing or contracting with the Managing Director, the other Directors are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Company to employ or to contract with that Director rather than with someone who is not a Director. In reaching that decision the Directors must balance the advantage of employing a Director against the disadvantages of doing so (especially the loss of the Director's services as a result of dealing with the Director's conflict of interest);
  - 3.10.5 the reason for their decision is recorded by the Directors in the minute book;
  - 3.10.6 a majority of the Directors then in office have received no such payments or benefit.
- 3.11 The provision in **Article 3.8.3** that no Director may be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Company (other than a the Managing Director does not apply to an employee of the Company who is subsequently elected or appointed as a Director save that this Article shall only allow such a Director to receive remuneration or benefit from the Company in his capacity as an employee of the Company and provided that the procedure as set out in Articles **3.10.2** and **3.10.3** is followed.

3.12 In **Articles 3.4** to **3.12**:

**"company"**

shall include any company in which the Company:

- (a) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
- (b) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
- (c) has the right to appoint one or more Directors to the Board of the company

**"Director"**

shall include any child, stepchild, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister or spouse of the Director or any person living with the Director as his or her partner.

- 3.12.1 The employment or remuneration of a Director includes the engagement or remuneration of any firm or company in which the Director is:
  - 3.12.1.1 a partner;

- 3.12.1.2 an employee;
  - 3.12.1.3 a consultant;
  - 3.12.1.4 a director;
  - 3.12.1.5 a member; or
  - 3.12.1.6 a shareholder, unless the shares of the company are listed on a recognised stock exchange and the Director holds less than 1% of the issued capital.
- 3.13 The liability of the Members of the Company is limited.
- 3.14 Every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Company's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a Member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a Member, for payment of the Company's debts and liabilities before he or she ceases to be a Member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
- 3.15 No alteration or addition shall be made to or in the provisions of the Articles without the written consent of the Secretary of State.
- 3.16 If the Company is wound up or dissolved and after all its debts and liabilities (including any under section 2 of the Academies Act 2010) have been satisfied there remains any property it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members, but shall be given or transferred to some other charity or charities having objects similar to the Objects which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company by **Article 3.3** above, chosen by the Members at or before the time of dissolution and if that cannot be done then to some other charitable object.
- 3.15 No alteration or addition shall be made to or in the provisions of the Articles which would have the effect:
- 3.15.1 that the Company would cease to be a company to which section 60 of the Companies Act 2006 applies; or
  - 3.15.2 that the Company would cease to be a charity.
- 4. MEMBERS**
- 4.1 The Members of the Company shall comprise:
- 4.1.1 North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation;
  - 4.1.2 up to two person(s) who may be appointed by North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation; and
  - 4.1.3 one person appointed by the Secretary of State, in the event that the Secretary of State appoints a person for this purpose.
  - 4.1.4 the chairman of the Directors.
- 4.2 The Secretary of State's appointed Member (further to **Article 4.1.3** shall become a Member upon the Secretary of State delivering, or posting (by registered post), to the Office of the Academy Trust a notice appointing that person as his Member.
- 4.3 Each of the persons entitled to appoint Members in Article **4.1** shall have the right from time to time by written notice delivered to the Office to remove any Member appointed by them and to appoint a replacement Member to fill a vacancy whether resulting from such removal or otherwise.



- 4.4 If any of the persons entitled to appoint Members in **Article 4.1**:
- 4.4.1 in the case of an individual, die or become legally incapacitated;
  - 4.4.2 in the case of a corporate entity, cease to exist and are not replaced by a successor institution;
  - 4.4.3 becomes insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally; or
  - 4.4.4 ceases to be a Member

their right to appoint Members under these Articles shall vest in the remaining Members.

- 4.5 Membership will terminate automatically if:
- 4.5.1 a Member (which is a corporate entity) ceases to exist and is not replaced by a successor institution;
  - 4.5.2 a Member (which is an individual) dies or becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs; or
  - 4.5.3 a Member becomes insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with that Member's creditors generally.

4.6 The Members may agree unanimously in writing to remove any Member(s) who is a signatory to the Memorandum, other than North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation, provided that it is in the interests of the Company to remove such a Member(s). The agreement of such a signatory to the Memorandum who is to be removed shall not be required.

4.7 Every person nominated to be a Member of the Company shall either sign a written consent to become a Member or sign the register of Members on becoming a Member.

4.8 Any Member may resign provided that after such resignation the number of Members is not less than three. A Member shall cease to be one immediately on the receipt by the Company of a notice in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to remove him under **Article 4.3** provided that no such notice shall take effect when the number of Members is less than three unless it contains or is accompanied by the appointment of a replacement Member.

## 5. **GENERAL MEETINGS**

5.1 The Company shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it, and not more than 15 months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting of the Company and that of the next provided that so long as the Company holds its first Annual General Meeting within 18 months of its incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation or in the following year. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Directors shall appoint. All general meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called General Meetings.

5.2 The Directors may call general meetings and, on the requisition of Members pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, shall forthwith proceed to convene a general meeting in accordance with that Act. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Directors to call a general meeting, any Director or any Member of the Company may call a general meeting.

## 6. **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

6.1 General meetings shall be called by at least 14 Clear Days' notice but a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of Members having

a right to attend and vote and together representing not less than 90% of the total voting rights at that meeting.

- 6.2 The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted and, in the case of an Annual General Meeting, shall specify the meeting as such. The notice shall also state that the Member is entitled to appoint a proxy.
- 6.3 The notice shall be given to all the Members, to the Directors and Auditors.
- 6.4 The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

## 7. **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 7.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. A Member counts towards the quorum by being present either in person or by proxy. Two persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a Member or a proxy of a Member or a duly authorised representative of a Member organisation shall constitute a quorum, provided always that such quorum includes a duly authorised representative of North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation.
- 7.2 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Directors may determine.
- 7.3 The chairman, if any, of the Directors or in his absence some other Director nominated by the Directors shall preside as chairman of the meeting, but if neither the chairman nor such other Director (if any) be present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairman and, if there is only one Director present and willing to act, he shall be the chairman.
- 7.4 If no Director is willing to act as chairman, or if no Director is present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
- 7.5 A Director shall, notwithstanding that he is not a Member, be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting.
- 7.6 The chairman may, with the consent of a majority of the Members at a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, at least seven Clear Days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.
- 7.7 A resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, a poll may be demanded:
  - 7.7.1 by the chairman; or
  - 7.7.2 by at least two Members having the right to vote at the meeting; or
  - 7.7.3 by a Member or Members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at the meeting.

- 7.8 Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.
- 7.9 The demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the chairman. The withdrawal of a demand for a poll shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand for the poll was made.
- 7.10 A poll shall be taken as the chairman directs and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be Members) and fix a time, date and place for declaring the results. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
- 7.11 A poll demanded on the election of the chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time, date and place as the chairman directs not being more than 30 days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll is demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- 7.12 No notice need to be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time, date and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In other cases at least seven Clear Days' notice shall be given specifying the time, date and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- 7.13 A resolution in writing agreed by such number of members as required if it had been proposed at a general meeting shall be as effectual as if it had been passed at a general meeting duly convened and held provided that a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every Member. The resolution may consist of several instruments in the like form each agreed by one or more Members.

## 8. **VOTES OF MEMBERS**

- 8.1 On the show of hands every Member present in person shall have one vote. On a poll every Member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote.
- 8.2 No Member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all moneys then payable by him to the Company have been paid.
- 8.3 No objections shall be raised to the qualification of any person to vote at any general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
- 8.4 An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the appointer and shall be in the following form (or in a form as near thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Directors may approve):

"I/We, [NAME], of [ADDRESS], being a Member/Members of the above named Company, hereby appoint [NAME] of [ADDRESS], or in his absence, [NAME] of [ADDRESS] as my/our proxy to vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/general meeting of the company to be held on [DATE] 20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof

Signed on [DATE] 20[ ]"

- 8.5 Where it is desired to afford Members an opportunity of instructing the proxy how he shall act the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form (or in a form as near

thereto as circumstances allow or in any other form which is usual or which the Directors may approve):

"I/We, [NAME], of [ADDRESS], being a Member/Members of the above named Company, hereby appoint [NAME] of [ADDRESS], or in his absence, [NAME] of [ADDRESS] as my/our proxy to vote in my/our name[s] and on my/our behalf at the annual general meeting/general meeting of the company to be held on [DATE] 20[ ], and at any adjournment thereof

The form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

Resolution No 1 \*for\* against

Resolution No 2 \*for\* against

\* Strike out whichever is not desired

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit or abstain from voting

Signed on [DATE] 20[ ]

8.6 The instrument appointing a proxy and any authority under which it is signed or a copy of such authority certified by a notary or in some other way approved by the Directors may:

8.6.1 be deposited at the Office or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Company in relation to the meeting not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote; or

8.6.2 in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, be deposited as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll;

8.6.3 where the poll is not taken forthwith but is taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chairman or to the Secretary or to any Director,

and an instrument of proxy which is not deposited or delivered in a manner so permitted shall be invalid.

8.7 A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by the duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll unless notice of the determination was received by the Company at the Office or at such other place at which the instrument of proxy was duly deposited before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote given or the poll demanded or (or in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll.

8.8 Any organisation which is a Member of the Company may by resolution of its board of directors or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation which he represents as that organisation could exercise if it were an individual Member of the Company.

## 9. **DIRECTORS**

9.1 The number of Directors shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) and shall be subject to a maximum of fifteen.

9.2 Subject to Articles **9.3** and **9.4**, the Company shall have the following Directors:

- 9.2.1 up to ten Directors, appointed under **Article 10.1**;
  - 9.2.2 Academy Directors appointed under **Article 11**;
  - 9.2.3 the Managing Director;
  - 9.2.4 the (acting) chief executive officer or principal of North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation;
  - 9.2.5 a minimum of 2 Parent Directors elected or appointed under **Articles 12.1 -12.6** in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established under **Article 23.1.1** or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to **Article 23.2**;
  - 9.2.6 Any Additional Directors, if appointed under **Article 14.3, 14.4, or 16.4**;
  - 9.2.7 Any Further Directors, if appointed under **Article 14.5 or 16.4**;
- 9.3 The first Directors shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 9.4 Future Directors shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Director to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established or the Managing Director has not been appointed, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.
- 10. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS**
- 10.1 The Members may appoint up to ten Directors.
- 10.2 The total number of directors who are employees of the Company shall not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.
- 11. ACADEMY DIRECTORS**
- 11.1 Subject to **Article 11.2**, the chairman of each Local Governing Body shall be an Academy Director for as long as he remains in office as such and shall be appointed by the Directors of the Company but they shall appoint as the chairman of a Local Governing Body someone other than the Chief Executive Officer or other employee.
- 11.2 If the number of Academies exceeds five, the chairmen of the Local Governing Bodies shall elect five persons from amongst their numbers to be the Academy Directors. Any person elected in accordance with this **Article 11.2** shall only remain an Academy Director for as long as he remains chairman of a Local Governing Body. The Directors shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, the election of the Academy Directors in accordance with this **Article 11.2**. Any election of the Academy Directors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.
- 12. PARENT DIRECTORS**
- 12.1 In circumstances where the Directors have not appointed Local Governing Bodies in respect of the Academies as envisaged in **Article 23.1.1** or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to **Article 23.2** there shall be a minimum of two Parent Directors and otherwise such number as the Members shall decide who shall be appointed or elected in accordance with **Articles 12.2-12.6**.
- 12.2 Parent Directors and Parent Local Governors shall be elected or, if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed (in accordance with the terms of reference determined by the Directors from time to time). The elected or appointed Parent Directors must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or

more of the Academies at the time when he is elected or appointed. The elected (or, if the number of parents or individuals exercising parental responsibility standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed) Parent Local Governors of the Local Governing Body must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies overseen by the Local Governing Body at the time when he is elected or appointed.

- 12.3 In the case of 16-19 Academies, references to 'a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies' in **Article 12.2** shall be deemed to be references to 'a parent or an individual exercising parental responsibility of, a registered student at that 16-19 Academy' or, in circumstances where no parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered student at the 16-19 Academy is willing or able to act as a Parent Director or a Parent Local Governor, references to 'a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies' shall be deemed to be references to 'a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a child of above compulsory school age but not above the age of 19.
- 12.4 The number of Parent Directors and Parent Local Governors required shall be made up by Parent Directors and Parent Local Governors appointed by the Directors if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies.
- 12.5 The Directors shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of the Parent Directors or Parent Local Governors, including any question of whether a person is a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one of the Academies. Any election of the Parent Directors or Parent Local Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. For the purposes of any election of Parent Local Governors, any parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at the Academies overseen by the Local Governing Body shall be eligible to vote.
- 12.6 In appointing a Parent Director or Parent Local Governor the Directors shall appoint a person who is the parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at an Academy as described in **Articles 12.2** and **12.3**; or where the Directors are exercising their power to appoint a Parent Director or Parent Local Governor and it is not reasonably practical to appoint a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, as described in **Articles 12.2** and **12.3**, then the Directors may appoint a person who is the parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a child within the age range of at least one of the Academies or, in the case of an appointment to a Local Governing Body, the age range of at least one of the Academies overseen by that Local Governing Body.

### 13. **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director shall be a Director for as long as he remains in office as such.

### 14. **APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS**

- 14.1 The Secretary of State may give a warning notice to the Directors where he is satisfied—
- 14.1.1 that the standards of performance of pupils at any of the Academies are unacceptably low, or
  - 14.1.2 that there has been a serious breakdown in the way any of the Academies are managed or governed, or
  - 14.1.3 that the safety of pupils or staff of any of the Academies is threatened (whether by a breakdown of discipline or otherwise).
- 14.2 For the purposes of Article **14.1** a 'warning notice' is a notice in writing by the Secretary of State to the Company delivered to the Office setting out—

- 14.2.1 the matters referred to in Article **14.1**;
  - 14.2.2 the action which he requires the Directors to take in order to remedy those matters; and
  - 14.2.3 the period within which that action is to be taken by the Directors ('the compliance period').
- 14.3 The Secretary of State may appoint such Additional Directors as he thinks fit if the Secretary of State has:
- 14.3.1 given the Directors a warning notice in accordance with Article **14.1**; and
  - 14.3.2 the Directors have failed to comply, or secure compliance, with the notice to the Secretary of State's satisfaction within the compliance period.
- 14.4 The Secretary of State may also appoint such Additional Directors where following an Inspection by the Chief Inspector in accordance with the Education Act 2005 (an "**Inspection**") an Academy receives an Ofsted grading (being a grade referred to in The Framework for School Inspection or any modification or replacement of that document for the time being in force) which amounts to a drop, either from one Inspection to the next Inspection or between any two Inspections carried out within a 5 year period, of two Ofsted grades.
- 14.5 The Secretary of State may also appoint such Further Directors as he thinks fit if a Special Measures Termination Event (as defined in the Relevant Funding Agreement) occurs in respect of any Academy or if he is satisfied that any Director or Member of the Company is not a suitable person and he exercises his powers further to clause 93A of the Master Funding Agreement.
- 14.6 An Additional or Further Director shall become a Director upon the Secretary of State delivering, or posting (by registered post), to the Office of the Company a notice appointing that person as an Additional or Further Director.
- 14.7 Within 5 days of the Secretary of State appointing any Additional or Further Directors in accordance with Articles **14.3, 14.4, 14.5**, any Directors appointed under Article **10.1** and holding office immediately preceding the appointment of such Directors, shall resign immediately and the Members' power to appoint Directors under Article **10.1** shall remain suspended until the Secretary of State removes one or more of the Additional or Further Directors.
15. **TERM OF OFFICE**
- 15.1 Subject to **Article 15.2**, the term of office for any Director appointed under **Article 10.1** shall be four years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director and subject to **Article 19**, any Director may be re-appointed or re-elected for a maximum of two terms of office.
- 15.2 The persons holding office of Director by virtue of **Article 9.2.3** and **Article 9.2.4** shall be deemed to have immediately resigned from their office as Director when they cease to be Managing Director or chief executive officer/principal of North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation respectively.
16. **RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL**
- 16.1 A Director shall cease to hold office if he resigns his office by notice to the Company (but only if at least three Directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).
- 16.2 A Director shall cease to hold office if he is removed by the person or persons who appointed him. This **Article 16.2** does not apply in respect of a Parent Director.

16.3 Where a Director resigns his office or is removed from office, the Director or, where he is removed from office, those removing him, shall give written notice thereof to the Secretary.

16.4 Where an Additional or Further Director appointed pursuant to Articles **14.3**, **14.4** or **14.5** ceases to hold office as a Director for any reason, other than being removed by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State shall be entitled to appoint an Additional or Further Director in his place.

## 17. **DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS**

17.1 No person shall be qualified to be a Director unless he is aged 18 or over at the date of his election or appointment. No current pupil of any of the Academies shall be a Director.

17.2 A Director shall cease to hold office if he becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing or administering his own affairs.

17.3 A Director shall cease to hold office if he is absent without the permission of the Directors from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Directors resolve that his office be vacated.

17.4 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if:

17.4.1 his estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or

17.4.2 he is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.

17.5 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director at any time when he is subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualifications Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).

17.6 A Director shall cease to hold office if he ceases to be a Director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006 or is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

17.7 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if he has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he was responsible or to which he was privy, or which he by his conduct contributed to or facilitated.

17.8 A person shall be disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a Director at any time when he is:

17.8.1 included in the list kept by the Secretary of State under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999; or

17.8.2 disqualified from working with children in accordance with section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; or

17.8.3 barred from regulated activity relating to children (within the meaning of section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

17.9 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if he is a person in respect of whom a direction has been made under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 or is subject to any prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction.

17.10 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director where he has, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been



spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.

- 17.11 After the first Academy has opened, a person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Director if he has not provided to the chairman of the Directors a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997. In the event that the certificate discloses any information which would in the opinion of either the chairman or the Chief Executive Officer confirm their unsuitability to work with children that person shall be disqualified. If a dispute arises as to whether a person shall be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final.
- 17.12 Where, by virtue of these Articles a person becomes disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold office as a Director, and he is, or is proposed, to become such a Director, he shall upon becoming so disqualified give written notice of that fact to the Secretary.
- 17.13 **Articles 17.1 to 17.12** and **Articles 21.1 to 21.2** also apply to any member of any committee of the Directors, including a Local Governing Body, who is not a Director.

## 18. **SECRETARY TO THE DIRECTORS**

The Secretary shall be appointed by the Directors for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them. The Secretary shall not be a Director, or a Principal. Notwithstanding this **Article 18**, the Directors may, where the Secretary fails to attend a meeting of theirs, appoint any one of their number or any other person to act as Secretary for the purposes of that meeting.

## 19. **CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DIRECTORS**

- 19.1 The Directors shall each school year, at their first meeting in that year, elect a chairman from among their number. A Director who is employed by the Company or North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation shall not be eligible for election as chairman. The (acting, as the case may be) chief executive officer/principal of North Hertfordshire College Further Education Corporation shall always be the vice chairman. The chairman shall be eligible for a maximum of three terms of office.
- 19.2 Subject to **Article 19.3**, the chairman shall hold office as such until his successor has been elected in accordance with **Article 19.4**.
- 19.3 The chairman may at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Secretary. The chairman or vice-chairman shall cease to hold office if:
- 19.3.1 he ceases to be a Director;
  - 19.3.2 he is employed by the Company;
  - 19.3.3 he is removed from office in accordance with these Articles; or
  - 19.3.4 in the case of the vice-chairman, he is elected in accordance with these Articles to fill a vacancy in the office of chairman.
- 19.4 Where by reason of any of the matters referred to in **Article 19.3**, a vacancy arises in the office of chairman, the Directors shall at their next meeting elect one of their number to fill that vacancy.
- 19.5 Where the chairman is absent from any meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall act as the chair for the purposes of the meeting.

- 19.6 Where in the circumstances referred to in **Article 19.5** the vice-chairman is also absent from the meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of vice-chairman, the Directors shall elect one of their number to act as a chairman for the purposes of that meeting, provided that the Director elected shall not be a person who is employed by the Company.
- 19.7 The Secretary shall act as chairman during that part of any meeting at which the chairman is elected.
- 19.8 Any election of the chairman which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.
- 19.9 The Directors may remove the chairman from office in accordance with these Articles.
- 19.10 A resolution to remove the chairman from office which is passed at a meeting of the Directors shall not have effect unless:
- 19.10.1 it is confirmed by a resolution passed at a second meeting of the Directors held not less than 14 days after the first meeting; and
- 19.10.2 the matter of the chairman's removal from office is specified as an item of business on the agenda for each of those meetings.
- 19.11 Before the Directors resolve at the relevant meeting on whether to confirm the resolution to remove the chairman from office, the Director or Directors proposing his removal shall at that meeting state their reasons for doing so and the chairman shall be given an opportunity to make a statement in response.

## 20. **POWERS OF DIRECTORS**

- 20.1 Subject to provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the Company shall be managed by the Directors who may exercise all the powers of the Company. No alteration of the Articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Directors by the Articles and a meeting of Directors at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the Directors.
- 20.2 In addition to all powers hereby expressly conferred upon them and without detracting from the generality of their powers under the Articles the Directors shall have the following powers, namely:
- 20.2.1 to expend the funds of the Company in such manner as they shall consider most beneficial for the achievement of the Objects and to invest in the name of the Company such part of the funds as they may see fit and to direct the sale or transposition of any such investments and to expend the proceeds of any such sale in furtherance of the Objects;
- 20.2.2 to enter into contracts on behalf of the Company.
- 20.3 In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Directors may consider any advice given by the Managing Director and any other executive officer.
- 20.4 Any bank account in which any money of the Company is deposited shall be operated by the Directors in the name of the Company. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such an account shall be signed by at least two signatories authorised by the Directors.

## 21. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- 21.1 Any Director who has or can have any direct or indirect duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest) which conflicts or may conflict with his

duties as a Director shall disclose that fact to the Directors as soon as he becomes aware of it. A Director must absent himself from any discussions of the Directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his duty to act solely in the interests of the Company and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest).

21.2 For the purpose of **Article 21.1**, a Director has a Personal Financial Interest in the employment or remuneration of, or the provision of any other benefit to, that Director as permitted by and as defined by **Articles 3.7-3.11**.

## 22. **THE MINUTES**

22.1 The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Directors shall be drawn up and entered into a book kept for the purpose by the person acting as Secretary for the purposes of the meeting, and shall be signed (subject to the approval of the Directors) at the same or next subsequent meeting by the person acting as chairman thereof. The minutes shall include a record of:

22.1.1 all appointments of officers made by the Directors, and

22.1.2 all proceedings at meetings of the Company and of the Directors and of committees of Directors including the names of the Directors present at each such meeting.

## 23. **COMMITTEES**

23.1 Subject to these Articles, the Directors:

23.1.1 may appoint separate committees to be known as Local Governing Bodies for each Academy, and

23.1.2 may establish any other committee.

23.2 Subject to these Articles, the constitution, membership and proceedings of any committee shall be determined by the Directors. The establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of any committee of the Directors shall be reviewed at least once in every twelve months. The membership of any committee of the Directors may include persons who are not Directors, provided that (with the exception of the Local Governing Bodies) a majority of members of any such committee shall be Directors. Except in the case of a Local Governing Body, no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of a committee of the Directors unless the majority of members of the committee present are Directors.

23.3 The functions and proceedings of the Local Governing Bodies shall be subject to regulations made by the Directors from time to time.

## 24. **DELEGATION**

24.1 The Directors may delegate to any Director, committee (including any Local Governing Body), the Managing Director or any other holder of an executive office, such of their powers or functions as they consider desirable to be exercised by them. Any such delegation shall be made subject to any conditions the Directors may impose, and may be revoked or altered.

24.2 Where any power or function of the Directors has been exercised by any committee (including any Local Governing Body), any Director, the Managing Director or any other holder of an executive office, that person or committee shall report to the Directors in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise of that power or function at the meeting of the Directors immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

25. **MANAGING DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPALS**

25.1 The Directors shall appoint the Managing Director and the Principals of the Academies. The Directors may delegate such powers and functions as they consider are required by the Managing Director and Principals for the internal organisation, management and control of the Academies (including the implementation of all policies approved by the Directors and for the direction of the teaching and curriculum at the Academies).

26. **MEETINGS OF THE DIRECTORS**

26.1 Subject to these Articles, the Directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit.

26.2 The Directors shall hold at least three meetings in every school year. Meetings of the Directors shall be convened by the Secretary. In exercising his functions under this **Article 26.2** the Secretary shall comply with any direction:

26.2.1 given by the Directors; or

26.2.2 given by the chairman of the Directors or, in his absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of chairman, the vice-chairman of the Directors, so far as such direction is not inconsistent with any direction given as mentioned in **Article 26.2.1**.

26.3 Any three Directors may, by notice in writing given to the Secretary, requisition a meeting of the Directors, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to convene such a meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable.

26.4 Each Director shall be given at least fourteen Clear Days before the date of a meeting:

26.4.1 notice in writing thereof, signed by the Secretary, and sent to each Director at the address provided by each Director from time to time, and

26.4.2 a copy of the agenda for the meeting,

provided that where the chairman or, in his absence or where there is a vacancy in the office of chairman, the vice-chairman, so determines on the grounds that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the written notice of a meeting, and the copy of the agenda thereof are given within such shorter period as he directs.

26.5 The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda thereof.

26.6 A resolution to rescind or vary a resolution earned at a previous meeting of the Directors shall not be proposed at a meeting of the Directors unless the consideration of the rescission or variation of the previous resolution is a specific item of business on the agenda for that meeting.

26.7 A meeting of the Directors shall be terminated forthwith if:

26.7.1 the Directors so resolve; or

26.7.2 the number of Directors present ceases to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Directors in accordance with **Article 26.10** , subject to **Article 26.12**.

26.8 Where in accordance with **Article 26.7** a meeting is not held or is terminated before all the matters specified as items of business on the agenda for the meeting have been disposed of, a further meeting shall be convened by the Secretary as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within seven days of the date on which the meeting was originally to be held or was so terminated.

- 26.9 Where the Directors resolve in accordance with **Article 26.7** to adjourn a meeting before all the items of business on the agenda have been disposed of, the Directors shall before doing so determine the time and date at which a further meeting is to be held for the purposes of completing the consideration of those items, and they shall direct the Secretary to convene a meeting accordingly.
- 26.10 Subject to **Article 26.12** the quorum for a meeting of the Directors, and any vote on any matter thereat, shall be any three Directors, or, where greater, any one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the total number of Directors holding office at the date of the meeting. If the Secretary of State has appointed Additional or Further Directors then a majority of the quorum must be made up of Additional or Further Directors.
- 26.11 The Directors may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the numbers of Directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Directors may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
- 26.12 The quorum for the purposes of:
- 26.12.1 appointing a parent Director under **Articles 12.2-12.6**,
  - 26.12.2 any vote on the removal of a Director in accordance with **Article 16.2**,
  - 26.12.3 any vote on the removal of the chairman of the Directors in accordance with **Article 19.9**,
- shall be any two-thirds (rounded up to a whole number) of the persons who are at the time Directors entitled to vote on those respective matters.
- 26.13 Subject to these Articles, every question to be decided at a meeting of the Directors shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Directors present and voting on the question Every Director shall have one vote.
- 26.14 Subject to **Articles 26.10-26.12**, where there is an equal division of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he may have.
- 26.15 The proceedings of the Directors shall not be invalidated by:
- 26.15.1 any vacancy among their number, or
  - 26.15.2 any defect in the election, appointment or nomination of any Director.
- 26.16 A resolution in writing, signed by all the Directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors, shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of Directors or (as the case may be) a committee of Directors duly convened and held Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by one or more of the Directors.
- 26.17 Subject to **Article 26.18**, the Directors shall ensure that a copy of
- 26.17.1 the agenda for every meeting of the Directors,
  - 26.17.2 the draft minutes of every such meeting, if they have been approved by the person acting as chairman of that meeting,
  - 26.17.3 the signed minutes of every such meeting, and
  - 26.17.4 any report, document or other paper considered at any such meeting,
- are, as soon as is reasonably practicable, made available at every Academy to persons wishing to inspect them

26.18 There may be excluded from any item required to be made available in pursuance of **Article 26.17**, any material relating to:

26.18.1 a named Teacher or other person employed, or proposed to be employed, at any Academy,

26.18.2 a named pupil at, or candidate for admission to, any Academy, and

26.18.3 any matter which, by reason of its nature, the Directors are satisfied should remain confidential.

26.19 Any Director shall be able to participate in meetings of the Directors by telephone or video conference provided that:

26.19.1 he has given notice of his intention to do so detailing the telephone number on which he can be reached and/or appropriate details of the video conference suite from which he shall be taking part at the time of the meeting at least 48 hours before the meeting, and

26.19.2 the Directors have access to the appropriate equipment if after all reasonable efforts it does not prove possible for the person to participate by telephone or video conference the meeting may still proceed with its business provided it is otherwise quorate.

## 27. **PATRONS AND HONORARY OFFICERS**

The Directors may from time to time appoint any person whether or not a Member to be a patron of the Company or to hold any honorary office and may determine for what period he is to hold such office.

## 28. **THE SEAL**

The Seal, if any, shall only be used by the authority of the Directors or of a committee of Directors authorised by the Directors. The Directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the Seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Director and by the Secretary or by a second Director.

## 29. **ACCOUNTS**

Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the relevant Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and Parts 15 and 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

## 30. **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Directors shall prepare its Annual Report in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

## 31. **ANNUAL RETURN**

The Directors shall comply with their obligations under Part 24 of the Companies Act 2006 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return to the Registrar of Companies and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as if the Company was a non-exempt charity and to the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator by 31 December each Academy Financial Year.

## 32. **NOTICES**

- 32.1 Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles (other than a notice calling a meeting of the directors) shall be in writing or shall be given using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the notice. In these Articles, "Address" in relation to electronic communications, includes a number or address used for the purposes of such communications.
- 32.2 A notice may be given by the Company to a Member either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address or by giving it using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified to the Company by the Member. A Member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him, or an address to which notices may be sent using electronic communications shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address, but otherwise no such Member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Company.
- 32.3 A Member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where necessary, of the purposes for which it was called.
- 32.4 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was sent.

## 33. **INDEMNITY**

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Director or other officer or auditor of the Company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Company.

## 34. **RULES**

- 34.1 The Directors may from time to time make such rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Company and for purposes of prescribing classes of and conditions of membership, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, they may by such rules or bye laws regulate:
- 34.1.1 the admission and classification of Members (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such Members, and the conditions of membership and the terms on which Members may resign or have their membership terminated and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by Members,
  - 34.1.2 the conduct of Members of the Company in relation to one another, and to the Company's servants,
  - 34.1.3 the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Company's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes,

- 34.1.4 the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Directors and committees of the Directors and meetings of the Local Governing Bodies in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Articles; and,
- 34.1.5 generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- 34.2 The Company in general meeting shall have power to alter, add or to repeal the rules or bye laws and the Directors shall adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring to the notice of Members all such rules or bye laws, which shall be binding on all Members. Provided that no rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in the Articles.
35. **AVOIDING INFLUENCED COMPANY STATUS**
- 35.1 Notwithstanding the number of Members from time to time, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by Local Authority Associated Persons shall never exceed 19.9% of the total number of votes exercisable by Members in general meeting and the votes of the other Members having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.
- 35.2 No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person may be appointed as a Director if, once the appointment had taken effect, the number of Directors who are Local Authority Associated Persons would represent 20% or more of the total number of Directors. Upon any resolution put to the Directors, the maximum aggregate number of votes exercisable by any Directors who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall represent a maximum of 19.9% of the total number of votes cast by the Directors on such a resolution and the votes of the other Directors having a right to vote at the meeting will be increased on a pro-rata basis.
- 35.3 No person who is a Local Authority Associated Person is eligible to be appointed to the office of Director unless his appointment to such office is authorised by the local authority to which he is associated.
- 35.4 If at the time of either his becoming a Member or his first appointment to office as a Director, any Member or Director was not a Local Authority Associated Person but later becomes so during his membership or tenure as a Director he shall be deemed to have immediately resigned his membership and/or resigned from his office as a Director as the case may be.
- 35.5 If at any time the number of Directors or Members who are also Local Authority Associated Persons would (but for **Articles 35.1 to 35.4** inclusive) represent 20% or more of the total number of Directors or Members (as the case may be) then a sufficient number of the Directors or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned as Directors or Members (as the case may be) immediately before the occurrence of such an event to ensure that at all times the number of such Directors or Members {as the case may be} is never equal to or greater than 20% of the total number of Directors or Members (as the case may be). Directors or Members (as the case may be) who are Local Authority Associated Persons shall be deemed to have resigned in order of their appointment date the most recently appointed resigning first.
- 35.6 The Members will each notify the Company and each other. If at any time they believe that the Company or any of its subsidiaries has become subject to the influence of a local authority (as described in section 69 of the Local Government and Housing Act).