



Companies Acts 1985 to 2006

Company limited by guarantee

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF
THE CHELMSFORD DIOCESE EDUCATIONAL TRUST
COMPANY NUMBER: 07706638**

PREAMBLE

- a. This Charity has been set up by the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education in response to the likely challenge of a large number of Church of England Schools converting or otherwise becoming Church of England Academies under the Academies Act 2010
- b. As Academy Trusts rather than local authorities will have sole responsibility for:
- i. the standard of education provided at the academies operated by them;
 - ii. school improvement and
 - iii. their conduct of the Academies
- in relation to Church of England Academies this Charity has been set up to perform a role in the Diocese in helping/supporting Church of England Academy Trusts to fulfil the responsibilities outlined above in relation to their schools/academies and as a member of each of the Church of England Academy Trusts also to challenge and to hold governors to account in this regard
- c. The Charity is also intended to operate as a sponsor or co-sponsor of Church of England Academies in the Diocese and elsewhere as required

- d. The Charity may also undertake other roles/activities pursuant to its Objects and the description of particular roles /activities in the Preamble in no way limits the role and activities that Charity can properly undertake pursuant to its Objects.
- e. Defined terms are set out in Article 14.

1. Objects

- 1.1.1 The **Objects** of the **Charity** are to advance for the public benefit education in the diocese of Chelmsford or elsewhere, in particular but not exclusively, by
- 1.1.2 promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of Educational Institutions and the efficient and effective application of resources for such purposes including by promoting and disseminating models of good practice and by the delivery of support services generally to such institutions;
- 1.1.3 advancing the education of people who work or volunteer in or govern, Educational Institutions in order to assist those persons to deliver a high quality education to the pupils and to communities served by those institutions;
- 1.1.4 establishing and maintaining Academies (primarily but not exclusively Church of England Academies) under the direction of the Diocesan Board of Education;
- 1.2 The Objects are to be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.
- 1.3 Articles 1.1 to 1.3 inclusive may be amended by **special resolution** but only with the prior written consent of the **Commission**.

2. Powers

The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

- 2.1 to be a corporate member of each Church of England Academy in the Diocese or elsewhere and in that capacity to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that statutory inspections take place as required by Education Acts, support improvement and transformation of standards and require accountability to the members of each Church of England Academy in respect both of ethos and of standards.
- 2.2 to exercise towards such Academies such powers, responsibilities and duties as the Diocesan Board of Education may from time to time determine
- 2.3 to act as a sponsor of Church of England Academies where a sponsor regime is required by DfE practice both within the Diocese and elsewhere (when and only when requested to undertake such a role by the diocesan board of education of the diocese within which such an Academy may be situated).
- 2.4 to provide or procure the provision of advice, services or information to Church of England Academies in the Diocese and to such other Educational Institutions as may request the same;
- 2.5 to carry out research;
- 2.6 to co-operate with other bodies;
- 2.7 to support, administer or set up other charities;
- 2.8 to accept gifts and to raise funds (but not by means of **taxable trading**);
- 2.9 to borrow money;
- 2.10 to give security for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the **Charities Act**);

- 2.11 to acquire or hire property of any kind;
- 2.12 to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
- 2.13 to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- 2.14 to deposit or invest its funds in any manner (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a **financial expert** as the **Trustees** consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- 2.15 to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert, but only on terms that:
- (1) the investment policy is set down **in writing** for the financial expert by the Trustees;
 - (2) timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees;
 - (3) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees;
 - (4) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;
 - (5) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;
 - (6) 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 Trustees on receipt; and
 - (7) the financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- 2.16 to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a **nominee company** acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;

- 2.17 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as **custodian**, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 2.18 to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required;
- 2.19 subject to **Article 6.3**, to employ paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers;
- 2.20 to enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- 2.21 to establish or acquire subsidiary companies;
- 2.22 to do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects.

3. The Trustees

- 3.1 The Trustees as **charity trustees** have control of the Charity and its property and funds.
- 3.2 The subscribers to the **Memorandum** (being the first **Members**) are also the first Trustees. All future Members (either being duly nominated by the Diocesan Board of Education or being the Diocesan Director of Education for the time being) shall also be Trustees and these shall be the only Members.
- 3.3 The Trustees when complete consist of at least 4 and not more than 9 individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects and of whom 2 are current members of the Diocesan Board of Education and not more than 2 are co-opted by the Members. Co-opted Trustees will not become Members.
- 3.4 A Trustee may not act as a Trustee unless he/she
 - (1) is a Member; and
 - (2) has signed a written declaration of willingness to act as a charity trustee of the Charity.

3.5 A Trustee's term of office as such automatically terminates if he/she:

- (1) ceases to be a member of the Diocesan Board of Education, having been appointed on the basis of such membership;
- (2) is disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a charity trustee;
- (3) is incapable, whether mentally or physically, of managing his/her own affairs;
- (4) is absent without permission from 3 consecutive meetings of the Trustees and is asked by a majority of the other Trustees to resign;
- (5) resigns by written notice to the Trustees (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office); or
- (6) is removed from membership by the Diocesan Board of Education

3.6 A technical defect in the appointment of a Trustee of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

4. Trustees' proceedings

4.1 The Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year.

4.2 A quorum at a meeting of the Trustees is at least three.

4.3 A meeting of the Trustees may be held either in person or by suitable

electronic means agreed by the Trustees in which all participants may communicate simultaneously with all the other participants but at least one meeting in each year must be held in person.

4.4 The **Chairman** or (if the Chairman is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Trustee chosen by the Trustees present presides at each meeting.

4.5 Any issue may be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast at a

meeting, but a Resolution **in writing** agreed by all the Trustees (other than any Conflicted Trustee who has not been authorised to vote) is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting. For this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document.

- 4.6 Every Trustee has one vote on each issue but, in case of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- 4.7 A procedural defect of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

5 Trustees' powers

The Trustees have the following powers in the administration of the Charity in their capacity as Trustees:

- 5.1 To appoint (and remove) any person (who may be a Trustee) to act as **Secretary** in accordance with the **Companies Act**.
- 5.2 To appoint a Chairman, a Treasurer and other honorary officers from among their number.
- 5.3 To delegate any of their functions to committees consisting of two or more individuals appointed by them. At least one member of every committee must be a Trustee and all proceedings of committees must be reported promptly to the Trustees.
- 5.4 To make standing orders consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern proceedings at general meetings.
- 5.5 To make rules consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern their proceedings and proceedings of committees.

- 5.6 To make regulations consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern the administration of the Charity and the use of its seal (if any).
- 5.7 To establish procedures to assist the resolution of disputes or differences within the Charity.
- 5.8 To exercise in their capacity as Trustees any powers of the Charity which are not reserved to them in their capacity as Members.

6 Benefits and Conflicts

- 6.1 The property and funds of the Charity must be used only for promoting the Objects and do not belong to the Members but:
- (1) Members (being Trustees) and **Connected Persons** may be paid interest at a reasonable rate on money lent to the Charity;
 - (2) Members (being Trustees) and Connected Persons may be paid a reasonable rent or hiring fee for property let or hired to the Charity; and
- 6.2 A Trustee must not receive any payment of money or other **material benefit** (whether directly or indirectly) from the Charity except:
- (1) as mentioned in Articles 6.1 or 6.3;
 - (2) reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (including hotel and travel costs) actually incurred in running the Charity;
 - (3) the benefit of **indemnity insurance** as permitted by the Charities Act;
 - (4) an indemnity in respect of any liabilities properly incurred in running the Charity (including the costs of a successful defence to criminal proceedings);
 - (5) in exceptional cases, other payments or benefits (but only with the

written consent of the Commission in advance and where required by the Companies Act the approval or affirmation of the Members).

6.3 No Trustee or Connected Person may be employed by the Charity except in accordance with Article 6.2(5), but any Trustee or Connected Person may enter into a written contract with the Charity, as permitted by the Charities Act, to supply goods or services in return for a payment or other material benefit but only if:

- (1) the goods or services are actually required by the Charity, and the Trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the Charity to enter into such a contract;
- (2) the nature and level of the remuneration is no more than is reasonable in relation to the value of the goods or services and is set in accordance with the procedure in Article 6.4; and
- (3) no more than one third of the Trustees are subject to such a contract in any financial year.

6.4 Subject to Clause 6.5, any Trustee who becomes a **Conflicted Trustee** in relation to any matter must:

- (1) declare the nature and extent of his or her interest before discussion begins on the matter;
- (2) withdraw from the meeting for that item after providing any information requested by the Trustees;
- (3) not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and
- (4) be absent during the vote and have no vote on the matter.

6.5 When any Trustee is a Conflicted Trustee, the Trustees who are not Conflicted Trustees, if they form a quorum without counting the Conflicted Trustee and are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Charity to do so, may by resolution passed in the absence of the Conflicted Trustee authorise the

Conflicted Trustee, notwithstanding any conflict of interest or duty which has arisen or may arise for the Conflicted Trustee, to:

- (1) continue to participate in discussions leading to the making of a decision and/or to vote, or
- (2) disclose to a third party information confidential to the Charity, or
- (3) take any other action not otherwise authorised which does not involve the receipt by the Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person of any payment or material benefit from the Charity or
- (4) refrain from taking any step required to remove the conflict.

6.6 This provision may be amended by special resolution but, where the result would be to permit any material benefit to a Trustee or Connected Person, only with the prior written consent of the Commission.

7 Records and Accounts

7.1 The Trustees must comply with the requirements of the Companies Act and of the Charities Act as to keeping records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies and the Commission of information required by law including:

- (1) annual returns;
- (2) annual reports; and
- (3) annual statements of account.

7.2 The Trustees must also keep records of:

- (1) all proceedings at meetings of the Trustees;
- (2) all Resolutions in writing;
- (3) all reports of committees; and

(4) all professional advice obtained.

7.3 Accounting records relating to the Charity must be made available for inspection by any Trustee at any time during normal office hours .

7.4 A copy of the Charity's **constitution** and latest available statement of account must be supplied on request to any Trustee. Copies of the latest accounts must also be supplied in accordance with the Charities Act to any other person who makes a written request and pays the Charity's reasonable costs.

8 Membership

8.1 The Charity must maintain a register of Members.

8.2 The subscribers to the Memorandum are the first Members.

8.3 **Membership** is open only to the Trustees with the exception of Co-opted Trustees and is terminated if the Member concerned ceases to be a **Trustee**

8.4 The form and the procedure for applying for Membership is to be prescribed by the Trustees.

8.5 Membership is not transferable.

8.6 Each Member (including successive Diocesan Directors of Education) shall on appointment sign the Register of Membership of the Company.

8.7 A Member (other than the Diocesan Director of Education) may resign at any time by written notice to the Company provided that such resignation would not reduce Membership below three.

9 General Meetings

- 9.1 Trustees in their capacity as Members are entitled to attend general meetings in person or by proxy (but only if the appointment of a proxy is in writing and notified to the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting).
- 9.2 General meetings are called on at least 14 and not more than 28 **clear days'** written notice indicating the business to be discussed and (if a special resolution is to be proposed) at least 28 clear days' written notice setting out the terms of the proposed special resolution.
- 9.3 There is a quorum at a general meeting if the number of Members present in person or by proxy is at least three.
- 9.4 The chairman at a general meeting is elected by the Members present in person or by proxy in his/her personal capacity as a Member and not as proxy for another Member.
- 9.5 Except where otherwise provided by the Articles or the Companies Act, every issue is decided by **ordinary resolution**.
- 9.6 Every Member present in person or by proxy has one vote on each issue.
- 9.7 Except where otherwise provided by the Articles or the Companies Act, a written resolution (whether an ordinary or a special resolution) is as valid as an equivalent resolution passed at a general meeting. For this purpose the written resolution may be set out in more than one document.
- 9.8 Except at first, the Charity must hold an **AGM** in every year. The first AGM must be held within 18 months after the Charity's incorporation.
- 9.9 Members being Trustees must annually at the AGM:
- (1) receive the accounts of the Charity for the previous **financial year**;

- (2) receive a written report on the Charity's activities;
- (3) be informed of the retirement of those Trustees who wish to retire or have been removed as Members by the Diocesan Board of Education;
- (4) record the names of Trustees nominated as Members by the Diocesan Board of Education to fill the vacancies arising;
- (5) appoint reporting accountants or auditors for the Charity;

9.10 Members may also from time to time

- (1) confer on any individual (with his/her consent) the honorary title of Patron, President or Vice-President of the Charity; and
- (2) [discuss and] determine any issues of policy or deal with any other business put before them by the Trustees.

9.11 A general meeting may be called by the Trustees at any time and must be called within 21 days of a written request from one or more Trustees (being Members), at least 10% of the Membership or (where no general meeting has been held within the last year) at least 5% of the Membership.

9.12 A technical defect in the appointment of a Member of which the Members are unaware at the time does not invalidate a decision taken at a general meeting or a Written Resolution.

10. Limited Liability

The liability of Members is limited.

11. Guarantee

Every Member promises, if the Charity is dissolved while he/she remains a Member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a Member, to pay up to £1 towards:

11.1 payment of those debts and liabilities of the Charity incurred before he/she ceased to be a Member;

11.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and

11.3 the adjustment of rights of contributors among themselves.

12. Communications

12.1 Notices and other documents to be served on Members or Trustees under the Articles or the Companies Act may be served:

(1) by hand;

(2) by post;

(3) by suitable electronic means; or

through publication in the Charity's newsletter.

12.2 The only address at which a Member is entitled to receive notices sent by post is an address in the U.K. shown in the register of Members.

12.3 Any notice given in accordance with these Articles is to be treated for all purposes as having been received:

(1) 24 hours after being sent by electronic means or delivered by hand to the relevant address;

(2) two clear days after being sent by first class post to that address;

(3) three clear days after being sent by second class or overseas post to that address;

(4) immediately on being handed to the recipient personally; or, if earlier,

(5) as soon as the recipient acknowledges actual receipt.

12.4 A technical defect in service of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

13. Dissolution

13.1 If the Charity is dissolved, the assets (if any) remaining after providing for all its liabilities must be applied in one or more of the following ways:

- (1) by transfer to one or more other bodies established for exclusively charitable purposes within, the same as or similar to the Objects;
- (2) directly for the Objects or for charitable purposes which are within or similar to the Objects;
- (3) in such other manner consistent with charitable status as the Commission approves in writing in advance.

13.2 A final report and statement of account must be sent to the Commission.

13.3 This provision may be amended by special resolution but only with the prior written consent of the Commission.

14. Interpretation

14.1 The Articles are to be interpreted without reference to the model articles under the Companies Act, which do not apply to the Charity.

14.2 In the Articles, unless the context indicates another meaning:

'Academy' means an academy as defined by the Academies Act 2010 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force (and "Academies" has a corresponding meaning);

'AGM' means an annual general meeting of the Charity;

'the Articles' means the Charity's Articles of Association and 'Article' refers to a particular Article;

'Chairman' means the chairman of the Trustees;

'the Charity' means the company governed by the Articles;

'the Charities Act' means the Charities Acts 1992 to 2006;

'charity trustee' has the meaning prescribed by the Charities Act;

'Church of England Academy' means an Academy designated as having a Church of England religious character under the Religious Character of Schools (Designation Procedure) (Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003; or an Academy that meets the requirement for designation under the Religious Character of Schools (Designation Procedure) (Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003 and is certified to be a Church of England Academy by the Diocesan Board of Education for the Diocese in which it is situated.

'Church of England Academy Trust' means an Academy trust company which is running one or more Church of England Academies.

'clear day' does not include the day on which notice is given or the day of the meeting or other event;

'the Commission' means the Charity Commission for England and Wales or any body which replaces it;

'the Companies Act' means the Companies Acts 1985 to 2006;

'Conflicted Trustee' means a Trustee in respect of whom a conflict of interest arises or may reasonably arise because the Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person is receiving or stands to receive a benefit (other than payment of a premium for indemnity insurance) from the Charity, or has some separate interest or duty in a matter to be decided, or in relation to information which is confidential to the Charity;

'Connected Person' means, in relation to a Trustee, a person with whom the Trustee shares a common interest such that he/she may reasonably be regarded as benefiting directly or indirectly from any material benefit received by that person, being either a member of the Trustee's family or household or a person or body who is a business associate of the Trustee, and (for the avoidance of doubt) does not include a company with which the Trustee's only connection is an interest consisting of no more than 1% of the voting rights;

'constitution' means the Memorandum and the Articles and any special resolutions relating to them;

'custodian' means a person or body who undertakes safe custody of assets or

of documents or records relating to them;

'DfE' means the Department for Education or any successor government department;

'Diocesan Board of Education' means that body set up within the Diocese in accordance with the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 (as amended) or any successor body;

'Diocesan Director of Education' means that person duly appointed to that role within the Diocese in accordance with the provisions of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 (as amended) or by any successor body; **'Diocese'** means the Church of England Diocese within which the Company is established;

'Education Acts' means the Education Acts as defined in Section 578 of the Education Act 1996 and includes any regulations made under such Education Acts;

'Educational Institution' means any Academy, school or college conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Education Acts or any other institution having as its purpose the education of children, adults or adults and children;

'electronic means' refers to communications addressed to specified individuals by telephone, fax or email or, in relation to meetings, by telephone conference call or video conference;

'financial expert' means an individual, company or **firm** who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;

'financial year' means the Charity's financial year;

'firm' includes a limited liability partnership;

'indemnity insurance' means insurance against personal liability incurred by any Trustee for an act or omission which is or is alleged to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, unless the act or omission amounts to a criminal offence or the Trustee concerned knew that, or was reckless whether, the act or omission was a breach of trust or breach of duty;

'material benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which may not be financial but has a monetary value;

'Member' and 'Membership' refer to company membership of the Charity; **'Memorandum'** means the Charity's Memorandum of Association;

'month' means calendar month;

'nominee company' means a corporate body registered or having an established place of business in England and Wales which holds title to property for another;

'ordinary resolution' means a resolution agreed by a simple majority of the Members present and voting at a general meeting or in the case of a written resolution by Members who together hold a simple majority of the voting power. Where applicable, **'Members'** in this definition means a class of Members;

'the Objects' means the Objects of the Charity as defined in Article 1;

'Resolution in writing' means a written resolution of the Trustees;

'Secretary' means a company secretary;

'special resolution' means a resolution of which at least 14 days' notice has been given agreed by a 75% majority of the Members present and voting at a general meeting or in the case of a written resolution by Members who together hold 75% of the voting power. Where applicable, **'Members'** in this definition means a class of Members;

'statutory inspections' means such inspections as shall from time to time be required under the Education Acts;

'taxable trading' means carrying on a trade or business in such manner or on such a scale that some or all of the profits are subject to corporation tax;

'Trustee' means a director of the Charity and **'Trustees'** means the directors but where a Trustee is a corporate body **'Trustee'** includes where appropriate the named representative of the Trustee;

'written' or 'in writing' refers to a legible document on paper or a document sent by electronic means which is capable of being printed out on paper;

'written resolution' refers to an ordinary or a special resolution which is in writing;

'year' means calendar year.

14.3 Expressions not otherwise defined which are defined in the Companies Act have the same meaning.

14.4 References to an Act of Parliament are to that Act as amended or re-enacted from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it and references to any subordinate legislation include any amended or replacement legislation in respect of that subordinate legislation.