



Board of Education  
Diocese of Chelmsford



# THE ROLE OF THE DIOCESAN CORPORATE MEMBER

The Chelmsford Diocese  
Educational Trust (CDET)

**Promoting life in all its fullness  
through Education across Essex  
and East London**

*'I have come that they may have  
life and have it to the full.'*

*John 10:10*

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## **Introduction**

The Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust (CDET) is a corporate member of any Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which includes a Chelmsford Diocese Board of Education Church School. CDET will appoint an appropriate trustee to be its representative as a Foundation member.

The inclusion of a Corporate Member in a MAT is one of the distinguishing characteristics of Church school education. The corporate member in each Trust represents the historic link with the original Church establishment (the founding establishment, hence the word foundation) of the schools' within the MAT. As such they are the ultimate protection and progression of the Church Schools distinctive Anglican and Christian ethos.

Corporate Member Representatives are unlike the other individual members of an Academy Trust in that they are not appointed personally as a member. They are there specifically to represent CDET and are therefore obliged to follow direction from CDET and the Chelmsford Diocese Board of Education (CDBE), as well as enabling CDET to meet its duties to the trust for which it has been appointed a corporate member.

## **What is the Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust (CDET)?**

The Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust (CDET) is a private limited company by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with the company number 07706638.

CDET works in partnership with the CDBE to support the CDBE's work in relation to Church of England academies. The work of the CDBE is governed by the Diocesan Board of Education Measure 2021 and the CDBE Scheme 2022. Further information is available at <https://www.cdbe.org.uk/about-us/diocesan-board-of-education>. CDET's Corporate Member role is seen as essential to embed a permanent and consistent foundation presence within every trust.

## **Key Responsibilities of CDET**

CDET, as the Corporate Member has key responsibilities:

- To ensure the success of the trust, acting as a guardian of the governance of the trust, ensuring the trust meets its Charitable objective.
- To hold the trust board to account through members meetings, including the trusts responsibility for the protection and progression of the Church Schools' deeply Christian ethos.
- To lead the appointment and removal of foundation trustees and members.
- To direct academy trustees, where trustees are unable or unwilling to act in the best interests of the MAT.
- To amend the Articles of Association.
- To appoint and remove the auditors.
- To maintain regular communication with the Chelmsford Diocese Board of Education (CDBE).

## **Role of the CDET Corporate Member Representative**

- Act as the CDET representative enabling CDET to fulfil its role as an active member of the trust.

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- Maintain a strong working relationship and communication with the CDET Board in order to act on the wishes of CDET in respect of Member decision making.
- Ensure that the Members group and the Trust Board protect and progress the foundation of Church Schools within the trust.
- Participate in the appointment process of Foundation Members.
- With the Foundation Member/s participate in the appointment of Foundation Trustees to the Trust Board
- Report back at CDET board meetings any significant changes within the MAT e.g. any foundation vacancy at member or director level, MAT growth, the resignation and appointment of school leaders or the Trust CEO, buildings work, school improvement and effectiveness concerns, Ofsted & SIAMS judgements.
- To ensure that any proposed amendments to the articles of the trust are brought to the CDET board prior to any amendments taking place.
- Receive a copy of the annual reports and accounts.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting for Members.
- Remain a link between the MAT and CDET.
- Update CDET board members at termly CDET meetings.

## **Being Accountable to the Board of Education**

The CDBE understand that every trust will have its own self-evaluation processes that enable effective accountability across the trust. The CDBE expects that Foundation Governors, Foundation Trustees and Foundation Members, including the Corporate Member CDET, always use the internal trust processes to ensure that issues of concern are appropriately acted on, within and by the trust.

Equally, the CDBE expects to be kept informed by Foundation Governors, Foundation Trustees and Foundation Members, including the Corporate Member CDET, on issues of concern or Trust change which affects Church academies.

It is the responsibility of the CDBE to determine how communication and accountability with the Diocesan Corporate Member CDET, will be carried out.

## **DBS and other required checks for the CDET Corporate Member Representative**

CDET, as the Corporate Member, will ensure the following checks are carried out on the trustees acting as the CDET Corporate Member representative:

- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- A Section 128 check
- Checks to confirm their identity (as part of the DBS check)
- Checks to confirm their right to work in the UK
- Any other checks deemed appropriate where the individual has lived or worked outside the UK

This information will be held by the CDBE on behalf of CDET.