

Ad Meliora Academy Trust

Academy Committee Newsletter

Autumn term 2025



Welcome to our Autumn term Academy Committee Newsletter to parents and carers. In this Newsletter you will find information about what our role is (and what it isn't). We will also cover the first 2 of the responsibilities that have been delegated to our committees – safeguarding and data.

The role of an Academy Committee

We have an Academy Committee at each academy in our Trust. These committees are sub-committees of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors have delegated a number of responsibilities for us to focus on. These are: -

- The effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.
- Academic standards
- The effectiveness of the curriculum
- The systems in place to support pupils' well-being
- The management of staff workload
- Community engagement



Our committees meet each half term and our meetings focus on the 6 responsibilities that have been given to us.

There are a number of things that happen at each of our meetings: -

- The Headteacher provides us with a written report that is focussed on our responsibilities.
- We ask the Headteacher questions about the information.
- Committee members report back after they have undertaken some monitoring in the academy.
- Sometimes, we have a presentation from one of the senior leaders in the academy, for example: looking at how well pupils are doing in their learning and tests, the things in place to support pupils' well-being; systems in place to encourage good attendance etc.
- We review policies that are linked to our responsibilities.
- We feedback on training that we have been asked to do.

Our role is to oversee these areas, make sure the academy is well-led and focused on delivering a high-quality education for all our pupils. We do not get involved with the day to day management of the academy, write policies, judge the quality of teaching or tell the Headteachers how to do their jobs.

Safeguarding in our academies

Safeguarding in schools and academies is a broad and proactive process of protecting children from harm, ensuring their health and development, and creating a supportive environment so they can thrive.

It involves identifying and preventing any situation where a child might be abused, neglected, or exploited, and taking action to enable all pupils to achieve their best outcomes.



Safeguarding includes individual child protection measure and fostering a whole-school culture where staff are confident in recognising and reporting concerns, and the environment itself is safe and secure.



Safeguarding is one of the Academy Committees' responsibilities. Our role is to:

- ensure child protection policies are effective and compliant with guidance like *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.
- challenging the school's leadership on the systems in place for safeguarding
- conduct a safeguarding audit
- ensure all staff have received up to date safeguarding training
- report to Directors on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements

Keeping children safe in education 2025

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

September 2025

Academic standards



Our committees are responsible for overseeing academic standards in our academies.

At each meeting, the Headteacher shares information about how well year groups are doing. We look at how much progress has been made and what the end outcome is. We do not look at individual children's information.

Our role is to compare this information with how well pupils are doing nationally. We look to see if there are any differences between subjects and we ask the Headteacher questions about what things are in place to support all learners. We also compare the information with the academy's targets and discuss whether we are on track to meet the targets that have been set,

Vision and Values

Each academy has a Vision and Values statement that sets out the academy's long-term goals, aspirations and culture.



VISION



VALUES

Over the Summer and Autumn terms, each Academy Committee has reviewed their Academy Vision & Values. The process has involved a workshop, discussions and consultations with staff and pupils.

We will be launching the revised Vision & Values in the Spring term, so look out for our Special Edition Vision & Values Newsletter!

Autumn term monitoring

In addition to our half termly meetings, we undertake monitoring activities. Monitoring enables us to see the things we have been discussing in our meetings, in action. This term we are monitoring the following things:



monitor

/ˈmɒnɪtə/

verb

gerund or present participle: **monitoring**

observe and check the progress or quality of (something) over a period of time; keep under systematic review.

1. Safeguarding

- We undertake a check of the Academy's Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is a mandatory document that every school in the UK must have and keep up to date. It is a record of all the pre-employment checks carried out on all staff and volunteers who work in school to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Our role is to check that this document is fully completed and kept up to date.
- Alongside the headteacher, we undertake a full safeguarding audit. A safeguarding audit enables us to see how effective and robust our safeguarding policies and procedures are. Our role is to check that each academy is compliant with statutory safeguarding standards, that there are systems in place to prevent harm to children, and respond to harm which may have already happened.



2. Sports Premium – We check that funding given for sports by the Government is used effectively. We review the impact of spending from the previous year and look at how academy leaders plan to spend the funding for the current academic year.

3. Cyber security – we meet with academy leaders and our IT teams to review the systems we have in place to protect our academies from a Cyber-attack. We look at what training staff have, how we keep our digital assets and personal information secure and how we identify and respond to potential cyber threats.



4. Pupil surveys – we plan and undertake a survey. The pupil surveys provide us with an insight into what pupils think about their learning and the help they get when they find things hard. We ask pupils about friends and how safe they feel. We also ask them about how well the staff support them with their emotional and physical well-being.

5. Academy improvement – each term we review one of the academy improvement priorities. To help us to see whether the actions leaders have planned are taking place, we spend time in the academies, talking to leaders, teachers, support staff and pupils. We also undertake some lesson visits and look at pupils’ work. We spend time at the end of the visit discussing what is working well and what the next steps are.



This term we have been looking at the following things: -

Blenheim Park Academy



Increase the challenge in Mathematics

Greenpark Academy



The Inclusive classroom

Reffley Academy



To raise attainment across the school in core subjects



Academy Committee vacancies.

We are currently looking for 1 parent/carer Academy Committee member to join our friendly Academy Committees.



No vacancies



1 parent/carer vacancy



1 parent/carer vacancy



No vacancies

If you are interested or know of somebody else who would be then please get in touch with our Governance Manager who will be pleased to give you more information – penny.folkard@admtrust.org.uk