



## WILLOW TREE ACADEMY

Herringthorpe Junior School, Greasbrough Primary School, Roughwood Primary School and Rockingham Junior and Infant School

### **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (for publication on the web-site)**

The schools that are part of Willow Tree Academy Trust, is governed by two groups of people who work closely together:

- The **Trust board** of Willow Tree Academy has overall responsibility for managing the Trust and its schools. The Trust board is made up of members and directors/trustees and is registered, not-for-profit, company limited by guarantee No: 09440025. The Trust board is accountable for the business operation of the Trust and sets the overall strategic direction and broad policy for the academies within the Trust. This includes responsibility for the three core functions of governance i.e.
  - Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
  - Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
  - Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all children attend schools within the Willow Tree Academy which provide the highest standard and quality of education. The Trust operates under Articles and a Scheme of Delegation which sets out the specific responsibilities and way in which the Trust will be organised. The Scheme of Delegation states that in the Willow Tree Academy Trust, the governance of each of its academy schools is devolved to a formal Committee of the Trust, to be known as the School Improvement Board and the Finance and Audit Committee. The Trust have agreed that each School Improvement Board will have the same structure of 8 governors - comprising 2 parent governors, 1 staff governor + the executive Headteacher, and 4 co-opted governors. The Finance Committee membership will consist of the Chief Financial Officer, the School Business Manager from each academy, the Trust Finance Manager, CEO, Chair of the Trust and 1 other director.

- The **School Improvement Board** of all the Schools within Willow Tree academy fulfil all the responsibilities previously held by the Governing Body prior to conversion to academy schools. Within the overall strategic direction set by the Trust board for all Willow Tree Academy Schools, Teaching and Learning and their outcomes will be central to the work of each School Improvement Board.

The **Finance & Audit Committee** will have responsibility for the strategic management of their school's allocated budget less a proportion to be retained for cross-school activity/expenditure and allocated by the Trust. At incorporation as Academies, the existing policies of each school were adopted to ensure continuity of provision and organisation. The trust will however, seek to adopt a number of policies which will apply across both/all trust schools. This will assist in ensuring the most effective and efficient strategic management of the schools within the trust and a common framework for day to day operation, thus facilitating collaborative working across the trust schools and within those other school(s) which the trust is commissioned to support.