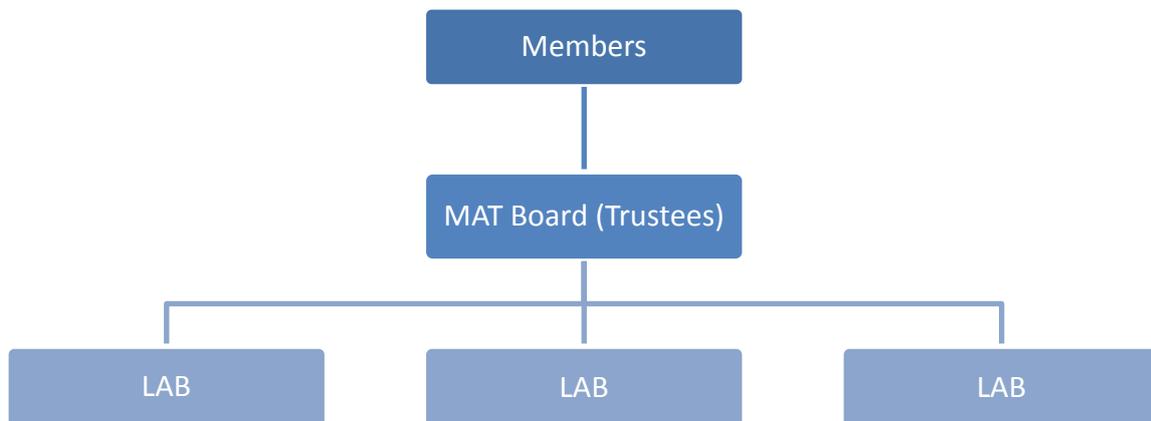


## Governance structure of the Mid Norfolk Academy Trust



(‘LAB’ stands for Local Academy Board)

In a multi-academy trust (MAT), a single trust is responsible for a number of academies. The MAT consists of the “members” and the “trustees”.

### Members

The members are akin to the shareholders of a company. They have ultimate control over the academy trust, with the ability to appoint some of the trustees and the right to amend the trust’s “articles of association” (the rules by which the trust is governed).

### Trustees

The trustees are those on the MAT Board. They are responsible for the same three core governance functions performed by the governing body in a maintained school:

- setting the strategic direction for the trust
- holding the Executive Headteacher / Senior Executive Leader to account
- ensuring financial probity.

As charity trustees, they must also ensure that they are complying with charity law requirements. Academy trusts are charitable companies and the trustees are

company directors and must comply with company law requirements. This may sound daunting, but, in reality, the duties are largely the same as those of a governor of a maintained school, such as regularly attending meetings, managing conflicts of interest, seeking advice from the academy's leadership team and ensuring the academy has appropriate procedures in place for reporting financial information.

The articles of association state that the chair of the board of trustees will also be a member, thereby ensuring a link between the two layers. However, while trustees can also serve as members, the most effective governance models recognise that the members are responsible for holding the trustees to account. Some separation between those serving as trustees and those serving as members is, therefore, desirable for achieving robust accountability. This is the model which has been adopted by the Mid Norfolk Academy Trust.

### **Local governors**

Individuals who sit on Local Academy Boards (LABs) are referred to as 'local governors'. The MAT's trustees can delegate governance functions to the local level. Trustees have complete discretion over what is delegated to each LAB and this is laid out and explained in each school's Scheme of Delegation.

Each school within the Mid Norfolk Academy Trust has its own Local Academy Board. These will always include two parent representatives.