

## 1. Terms of Reference for Expert Panels

**1.1. Purpose** The OAT Expert Panels (EPs) have been established to drive excellence in a range of focus areas. These groups will support schools in achieving high standards of practice, ensuring alignment with OAT's strategic vision.

**1.2. Objectives** The EPs will:

- Address a key focus area of development or improvement identified by OAT's strategic plan.
- Provide a platform for improvement, development, collaboration and the adoption of evidence-informed approaches to school improvement.
- Support colleagues to respond to changes in national education policy and requirements.
- Contribute to quality assurance processes by reviewing standards and outcomes in focus areas.

**1.3. Membership** Each EP will consist of:

- A Chair, appointed by the trust, responsible for leading meetings and coordinating actions.
- Relevant colleagues from each school within the trust.
- A representative from the trust's central team.
- Additional members (internal or external) with expertise or interest in the focus area, as appropriate.

### 1.4. Meetings

- EPs will meet at least once per term, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.
- Meetings may be held in person or virtually to ensure maximum participation.
- Agendas will be set in advance, and minutes will be recorded and shared with key stakeholders.

**1.5. Responsibilities** The EPs will be responsible for:

- Developing trust-wide responses to key issues or focus areas for development or improvement as determined by OAT's strategic plan.
- Reviewing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of such approaches.
- Supporting cross-school collaboration and networking.
- Reporting findings and recommendations via OAT's agreed governance routes.

### 1.6. Accountability and Reporting

- The EPs will report to OAT's agreed governance routes.
- Chairs will submit termly reports outlining progress, challenges, and key recommendations.
- EPs will align their work with the trust's overarching strategic priorities.

**1.7. Review and Evaluation** These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and effective in supporting subject excellence across the trust.

## 2. Specific additional terms of reference for subject expert panels

**2.1. Objectives** The subject expert panels (SEPs) will:

- Address a key focus area of development or improvement identified by OAT's strategic plan.
- Provide a platform for improvement, development, collaboration and the adoption of evidence-informed approaches to school improvement.
- Support colleagues to respond to changes in national education policy and requirements.
- Contribute to quality assurance processes by reviewing standards and outcomes in focus areas.

**2.2. Responsibilities** The SEPs will be responsible for, to a greater or lesser degree depending on subject:

- Developing and iterating ambitious and high quality curricular sequences that set out the minimum entitlement for all children in OAT schools.
- Developing and iterating common assessments that are faithful to the nature of their subject.
- Developing and delivering subject-level professional development.

**2.3. Personal responsibility** Each SEP member will commit to

- keeping their knowledge of subject curriculum, assessment and pedagogy up to date.
- working in the best interests of every OAT school, not just their own.
- working quickly and efficiently to achieve the aims of the panel.
- solving problems through maintaining a solution-focused approach.