Ad Meliora Academy Trust

Academy Committee Newsletter

Autumn term 2026

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 Academy Committee Newsletter. As volunteers, we work on behalf of pupils, parents and the wider community to support our academies and help ensure every child receives the best possible education. In this edition, we explain our role, share the work we have undertaken this term and highlight opportunities to join us.

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.



We help the Trust by focusing on key areas that make the greatest difference to pupils and families: -

- 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
- Engagement with parents, carers and the wider community

Academy Committees for Blenheim Park, Greenpark and Reffley have 10 positions. Our committees consist of a range of people: -

• 1 Trust leader
• 1 academy headteacher
• 1 staff member
• 2 parent/carer members
• 5 community members

Through our meetings and monitoring activities, we provide support and challenge to academy leaders to help ensure pupils are safe, achieve well and receive the opportunities they deserve.

We do not become involved in the day-to-day running of the academy, write policies, evaluate individual teachers or tell leaders how to do their jobs.

A spotlight on an Academy Committee member



Tom Gray

Tom joined the Academy Committee at Reffley Academy on 23 January 2023. Having been a pupil at the school, Tom was delighted when his employer suggested the opportunity to become involved. He welcomed the chance to reconnect with Reffley Academy and give something back to the school community.

As the Academy Committee's Cyber Security and GDPR Link Member, Tom works closely with the Trust's IT specialists and school leaders to monitor the effectiveness of the IT support and systems in place. He plays an important role in helping to ensure that technology and data protection arrangements remain robust and effective.

Tom enjoys his role as an Academy Committee member and, in addition to attending committee meetings, regularly visits the Academy to support and engage with the school community.

Thank you, Tom, for your continued commitment and support. It is greatly appreciated.

Do you think you could make a difference?



We have the following vacancies on our Academy Committees: -

- Blenheim Park – 1 community vacancy
- Greenpark- 1 community vacancy
- Reffley – 2 Parent vacancies (you need to be a parent at Reffley to be nominated for this role)

Academy Committee membership is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to your community, develop new skills and help shape the future of local education. No specialist educational knowledge is required. We welcome people from all backgrounds who are committed to improving outcomes for children. As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to support and challenge academy leaders, helping to ensure every child has the best possible experience in school.

We would love to hear from you if you think volunteering on our Academy Committee would be something you are interested in. Please get in touch with Penny Folkard, Governance Manager – penny.folkard@admtrust.org.uk

Making a difference this term

This term Academy Committees have:

- Reviewed safeguarding arrangements to ensure robust systems remain in place to keep children safe.
- Challenged leaders on attendance and explored strategies to reduce persistent absence.
- Monitored progress in priority areas including writing, spelling and wider enrichment opportunities.
- Undertaken safeguarding training to ensure we remain informed and effective in our governance role.

Autumn term monitoring

School visits and review activities allow us to see first-hand how improvement plans are being implemented and the difference they are making for pupils. This term we have been looking at the following things:

1. Safeguarding

We regularly review safeguarding arrangements to ensure robust systems are in place to keep children safe. This includes checking that safer recruitment procedures are followed, reviewing safeguarding arrangements and discussing with leaders how concerns are identified, recorded and acted upon.

2. 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.





3. 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.

4. 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	Greenpark Academy	Reffley Academy
		
Improving pupils' writing and spelling outcomes	Improving attendance and enriching wider opportunities	Improving spelling accuracy across the curriculum

Training

Academy Committee members undertake regular training to ensure we remain effective in our role. This term, our focus has been safeguarding, helping us to understand current legislation, best practice and our responsibilities for ensuring children are safe and well supported in our academies.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We are proud to support our academies and the children they serve. If you would like to learn more about Academy Committees or would be interested in joining us, please contact Penny Folkard, Governance Manager.