

48.4

Strategic Oversight & Governance Processes

Overview – September 2022



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE



FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP

1. The National Society Council

The Church of England Education Office's work is overseen by the National Society Council, which has existed since 1811, at which point the Church of England began opening schools that were free for children to attend. The expansion of Church of England schools in the early 19th Century set the context for the 1870 Education Act through which state-funded schools began to open across the country.

The National Society Council is chaired by the Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, who is also one of the Lords Spiritual, working closely with the government on a wide range of policy issues in the House of Lords. This involves a termly face-to-face meeting with the Secretary of State on a range of issues, underpinned by a MOU between the National Society and the Department for Education.

The NS Council governs all of the Church of England's work in education, and is made up of trustees appointed from various sources according to the constitution and relationship with the wider Church of England:

- Bishop Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, Chair
- Revd Canon Peter Ballard, DBE Services, Honorary Treasurer
- Rt Revd Mary Stallard, Archdeacon of Bangor, Church in Wales
- Canon Simon Lloyd, Chief Executive, Church in Wales
- Canon Dr Addy Lazz-Onyenobi, General Synod
- Ms Rosemary Lyon, General Synod
- Mrs Marion Plant, Principal, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
- Revd Jeremy Fletcher, Vicar, Hampstead Parish Church
- Ms Sonia Thompson, Headteacher, St Matthew's Research School
- Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard, Vice Chancellor, University of Roehampton

This group holds regular meetings multiple times during the year, including an annual residential in the Autumn Term. The group is supported by our full-time Governance Support Officer, Lisa Osborne, who provides operational capacity and also oversight of various strategic aspects including legal, HR and GDPR for the team. In addition, there are a number of additional sub-committees for this Council:

- Finance, Investment, Risk and Audit Committee
- SIAMS Management Group
- National Society Council Nominations Committee
- NPQ Governance Group

2. NPQ Governance Group

Although the NS Council provided oversight for the NPQ work in its previous iteration, and through the bidding process, the Council requested that we further build governance capacity with a group specifically focused on the NPQ work - leading to the recruitment of the team in the Autumn Term ahead of its first meeting in early 2022.

The NPQ Governance group is made up as follows:

- Revd Canon Peter Ballard, DBE Services, NS Trustee and Chair of NPQ Governance Group
- Revd Canon Nigel Genders, Chief Executive, National Society
- Ms Nikki Edwards, CEO Bath & Wells MAT (Delivery Partner)
- Mr Andrew Smith, York Diocesan Director of Education, NS Trustee
- Ms Jo Heaton, CEO, Northern Lights Learning Trust and Teaching School Hub (Delivery Partner)
- Ms Sarah Smith, Birmingham Diocesan Director of Education
- Mr Mark Burnett, COO, Diocese of Southwark MAT (Delivery Partner)
- Mr Doug Brechin, Director, Saffron Teaching School Hub (Delivery Partner)
- Professor Samantha Twiselton, Director, Sheffield Institute of Education (Academic Research Advisor)

This ensure that there is a clear flow into the main NS Council meeting (to which this group reports), direct link and strategic engagement from the Chief Executive, Nigel Genders, along with the views of a range of key stakeholders – Delivery Partners, Diocese Directors of Education and Academic Advisors.

The Terms of Reference for this group are:

- To provide clear strategic governance which ensures effective and sustainable delivery of the NPQ programmes at a national scale over the duration of the contract with the Department for Education
- To report to, and take direction from, the National Society Council with its overall responsibility for budget, risk management and procedural implementation of the charitable aims of the National Society
- To support and encourage senior staff responsible for the NPQs, including their integration in the wider work of the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership and its other Programmes, Networks and Research

3. Expert Research Challenge Group

In the early phases of the NPQ curriculum development we also worked with a wider group of senior academics who formed our Expert Research Challenge Group. This group met every 6 weeks and provided rigorous oversight and support to our curriculum design team to ensure fidelity to the NPQ frameworks and robust unpacking of the published research base. This group was made up of:

- Professor Toby Greany, University of Nottingham (Chair)
- Professor Sam Twiselton, Sheffield Hallam University
- Cat Scutt, Chartered College of Teaching
- Philippa Cordingley, CUREE
- Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope, Marjon University
- Professor Bill Lucas, University of Winchester
- Debbie Sabric, University of Roehampton

The Terms of Reference for this group were:

- To support the CofE team to ensure research evidence underpins all programme content
- To provide strategic, evidence-informed advice to the CofE team on the implementation and evaluation of the programmes
- To explore opportunities for direct contribution to the programmes according to capacity/expertise etc.

When the NS established the formal NPQ Governance Group in Autumn 2021, this group was deemed extraneous, and Professor Sam Twiselton took on a role within the formal governance of the organisation to ensure the rigorous curriculum work throughout the Church of England's NPQ programmes.

4. Organograms

This picture shows the overview of the governance and the membership of each group:

