

Comparison of Local Authority run schools and Trust-run schools



	Local authority	Trust
Governance and accountability	LA sets policy and procedures. Each school has own Governing Board that sets direction for its own school and is accountable to Local Authority, DfE, Ofsted.	One governing board – Trust Board – is accountable directly to Secretary of State for Education for all of its schools, and to DfE, Ofsted, ESFA.
Leadership	Governing Boards recruit Headteacher, with LA advice. Headteacher ensures LA policies and procedures are implemented in school. Governing Boards check this.	School local governance committees recruit Headteacher with CEO advice. CEO is accountable to the Trust Board and is the 'agent' of the Board. Trust executive leads the Central Team, and Heads lead schools.
High quality, inclusive education	Schools decide on quality and inclusion – what this means for their school. Head implements in their school.	The Trust Board decides what quality looks like for all of the schools in the Trust, and how to ensure inclusion. Executive and Heads implement this.
School improvement	LA provides support to schools in an Ofsted category, if RI or where intervention needed. Very limited to no support for good and outstanding schools.	Integral across the Trust for all schools. Director of Education leads school improvement activity so that each child has an increasingly improving education, and staff are more effective. Knowledge is built across all schools through regular training, development and sharing of professional learning. £50000 school improvement budget available to support schools in addition.
Workforce resilience and wellbeing	Each school sets its own working culture, and approach to staff wellbeing.	Trust as employer of all staff, sets its own working culture that is the same across all schools. Staff can move between schools in response to need/professional growth/promotion opportunities. Wellbeing approach is the same in all schools and central team.

Finances and operations

Each school sets and manages its own budget. LA can approve deficits and mechanisms to pay back from school budget or staffing restructure. Procurement and contracts through the school. Buy-back to LA on HR, payroll, legal, insurances etc.

Trust takes top slice of 6%
Financial resilience through central reserves supports schools when needed.
Joint procurement across the trust, contract management, HR, IT, Catering all centrally managed – within services and support - provided at no extra charge as part of top-slice to all schools

Public benefit and civic duty

Schools manage their own collaboration activities through joining partnerships/professional networks
Wider common good through charitable, community outreach and activity, including lettings of specialist sports and leisure facilities. Can run own nursery and wraparound provision.

Trust support for collaboration with individual schools, education providers and other trusts. Can invest in any aspect of community from trust reserves as part of charitable objectives.
Can run nursery, wraparound provision.

