

# Clerking in new contexts: MAT local governance tier

## Legal Framework

- An academy trust is regulated by company and charity law. It is subject to dual regulation by Companies House and the Charity Commission.
- Clerking for an academy committee, you will not be expected to have detailed knowledge of charity and company law but it is helpful to understand how this legal framework impacts on the requirements of your academy committee and its reporting to the trust board.
- An academy trust will also be the admissions authority and the employer and will own the land and be accountable for health and safety which may previously have come under the remit of the LA, depending on what type of school it was.
- A multi academy trust has responsibility for at least one school in a trust.
- Academy trusts are responsible to the Secretary of State for Education, who has delegated this authority to Regional Directors (RDs).
- RDs work with the Department for Education (DfE) to provide oversight and scrutiny of academy trusts' performance, in line with the established framework for academy trusts.
- Within this legal framework, the trust board is the accountable body for all the academies within the trust.
- The trust board may, technically, undertake all governance functions for the academies in the trust. However, in practice, many governance functions are delegated either to trust board committees, executive leaders, academy committees (often known as local governing bodies) or regional committees, and the SEL.