**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities included in the 2019 Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Board of Trustees as the CDAT Board formally met 10 times during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. Attendance during this period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

**Trustee (CDAT Board) Meetings attended Out of a possible**

M P Sharp (Chair) 10 10

D Dilling (Vice Chair) 9 10

S Chotai (Executive Principal & Accounting Officer) 10 10

H Hartley 9 10

A Bamrah 0 10

P G Woolfenden 10 10

Cllr J Bennington 7 10

J Ellis (attendance as the Headteacher of Biggin Hill Primary School) 10 10

For the reporting year the CDAT Board had accepted that due to work commitments Mr Bamrah would have difficulty in attending many of the meetings.

The Board’s main work focus has been the oversight of performance across both schools.  It meets at least 6 times a year to receive reports from the two schools in relation to:

1. Academic performance
2. Safeguarding
3. Quality of governance
4. Financial situation

The Board has a particular focus on financial oversight.  At a time of austerity in the educational sector this aspect of its work is vital in ensuring the health of each of its schools; ensuring that progress can be continued.

**Local Governing Bodies**

**Charles Darwin School Local Governing Body (5 meetings)**

**Meetings attended Out of a possible**

S J Roberts (Chair) – resigned 31/08/19 5 5

S Chotai (Executive Principal & Accounting Officer) 5 5

T Coop 4 5

F Evans (staff) – resigned 31/08/19 3 5

I Turner 4 5

S M Wade 3 5

S Wilson 4 5

P G Woolfenden 5 5

M Botting 5 5

**Biggin Hill Primary School Local Governing Body (6 meetings)**

**Meetings attended Out of a possible**

M Ace (Chair) 5 6

J Ellis (Headteacher) 6 6

D Bray-Ash (resigned 27/06/19) 3 6

C Brocklehurst 5 6

H Hartley 6 6

K Hyland (resigned 27/06/19) 3 6

J Snelling (staff) 6 6

W Wolfcarius 6 6

K Lawrence (appointed 27/09/18) 5 5

The trust has the benefit of some very committed and loyal Governors. The attendance of Governors at meetings (as illustrated above) is consistently good as is their grasp of key governance issues.

 **Finance and Audit Committee**

The Finance and Audit Committee, as a sub-committee of the CDAT Board, has oversight of the work of both schools in the trust. Membership during the year comprised three trustees, including the Executive Principal, and two representatives from the Local Governing Bodies. The Headteacher of Biggin Hill Primary School joined the Committee in January 2018. During the year ended 31 August 2019 the attendance was as follows:

**Meetings attended Out of a possible**

D Dilling (Chair) 5 5

S Chotai 4 5

M P Sharp 5 5

T Coop 5 5

W Wolfcarius 5 5

J Ellis 5 5

During the 2018/2019 academic year the Finance and Audit Committee has focused on:

* Funding – ensuring the academy trust’s funds are spent appropriately, managing effectively the very tight funding context
* Some alignment of finance practices between the two schools in the trust
* The continued development of the Darwin Leisure Centre and its profitability
* Managing the school more effectively with reduced levels of funding
* Ensuring that much needed ICT development and building improvement is effectively prioritised