Pathway Governance Overview for Inspectors

This document details the governance structure, roles, and oversight arrangements for Pathway Trust, formed from the merger of Castle School Education Trust (CSET) and The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) in September 2026. Further information and core documents are available on the Pathway Trust website.

Board of Trustees

The 'accountable body' for Pathway Trust and its schools. The Trustees delegate authority via the Scheme of Delegation which sets out which authority the trustees choose to delegate. Its key functions include:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
- Holding leaders to account for educational performance, pupil outcomes, and staff performance management.
- Overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance.
- Upholding the Christian distinctiveness of church schools within the Trust.

Education Committee

The Education Committee is a committee of the Board, and its purpose is to provide strategic oversight and assurance on the quality of education across the trust to ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils within the context of its vision and values, including in relation to the curriculum and equality and inclusion. It meets six times a year.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The lead professional for the trust and all schools, acting as the Accounting Officer directly accountable to the Board of Trustees. The CEO is supported by trust leaders, including the Director of Primary Schools and Director of Secondary Schools, who oversee educational strategies alongside a specialist improvement team.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is the lead professional in each school, accountable to the CEO through the Directors of Primary/ and Secondary Schools. A Standards & Priorities Review (SPR) for each school is held three times a year with the CEO to provide formal oversight of educational standards and improvement priorities.

Local Governance: Community Councils

The local tier of governance for each Pathway school is undertaken by a Community Council. Acting as a 'critical friend', the Community Council provides local, parental, and community perspectives to ensure each school remains rooted in its locale and provides valuable insights to trustees on community issues (and Christian Distinctiveness for our Church Schools). They have no direct decision-making powers delegated from the Board of Trustees. There are regular meetings of the Community Council Chairs with the Co Vice Chair of the Board and trust leaders.

Safeguarding Governance

The safeguarding of children's welfare is the first duty of all adults in the trust. We therefore have special governance arrangements in place for Safeguarding and Child Protection:

- Each school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead, who is accountable for Safeguarding through the Headteacher and Chief Executive to Trustees.
- The trust Safeguarding Lead provides professional governance support and challenge to DSLs, and reports through the Chief Executive to Trustees.
- Each Community Council appoints a Safeguarding Councillor who provides local perspective on safeguarding arrangements. Safeguarding Councillors meet regularly with the Trust Safeguarding Lead and the Safeguarding Trustee who reports to the Board.

Trust Policies

All policies are trust-wide and the latest versions are published on the Pathway Trust website. Headteachers are accountable for site-level implementation of policies. Policy adherence is monitored by trust leaders, who report findings to trustees through board committees. Where relevant, supplementary information is provided on school websites.

Information for School Inspection Teams

Inspectors will wish to meet with those responsible for governance during the course of an inspection. This can usually be achieved with the following representation:

- The Chief Executive Officer and Director of Primary/Secondary Schools
- A Trustee (typically a member of the Board's Education Committee)
- The Chair of the school's Community Council