

Report – Boards of Governors of the City of London School for Girls and the City of London School

City Junior School Governance

To be presented on Thursday 13th January 2022

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

During the course of 2021, the Court of Common Council has received various reports relating to the establishment of a new City Junior School, operated as a joint endeavour by the City of London School and City of London School for Girls. Provision for a new joint sub-committee to oversee the administration of the Junior School was also made reference to through the Governance Review proposals approved by this Court.

At the meeting of your Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls on 8 and 10 December 2021 respectively, the Boards agreed formally to the creation of a joint sub-committee to undertake the duties of the Board of Governors of the City Junior School and to make such revisions as required to the Terms of Reference of your Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls so as to include oversight of the City Junior School. These recommendations were endorsed by your Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2021.

Consequently, the Court of Common Council is now requested to agree minor revisions to both the Terms of Reference of the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls, such as to include oversight of the City Junior School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Court of Common Council is **recommended** to agree the revised Terms of Reference of the Board of Governors of the City of London School and Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls to include oversight of the City Junior School.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. A co-educational junior school operated jointly by the City of London School and City of London School for Girls and acting as a feeder school for both senior schools, is due to open in September 2022. Finances have been agreed among various committees and the City Surveyor's Department has worked with the landlord at Gray's Inn to secure a lease on a former educational facility which is

available for long-term lease and for which the Heads of Terms have been approved by the Court of Common Council.

Current Position

2. To date all significant decisions in relation to City Junior School have been made jointly by reporting separately to the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls. This governance structure is onerous and unwieldy to support a fast-moving project. Furthermore, as City Junior School is expected to develop into a significant school with 300 pupils on its own site with a separate Department for Education (DfE) license and subject to Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection in its own right from September 2022, a clear and accountable, independent governance structure will be required for City Junior School, albeit one which reflects the School's financial, operational and transitional links to the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls.

Proposal

3. Following consultation with the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls, the Town Clerk, Comptroller and City Solicitor, as well as in line with a previous decision of Policy and Resources Committee in June 2021, it was proposed that City Junior School's governance comprise a joint sub-committee of the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls, to be designated as the Board of Governors of the City Junior School.
4. Made up of a majority of Common Councilors and complemented by a number of Co-opted Governors with additional skills, the sub-committee would essentially act as the Board of Governors in relation to School operations; however certain governance matters would be reserved for the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls including include matters relating to:
 - (i) City Junior School financial strategy and budget, which might have a material impact on the finances of the two senior schools;
 - (ii) Membership of the City Junior School Board of Governors; and,
 - (iii) Other matters which might have a significant impact on the two senior schools.
5. The proposed creation of a joint sub-committee is in line with the Governance Review proposals agreed by the Court, which made provision for a joint sub-committee and included a strategic target of limiting unnecessary growth in the number of grand committees.

Conclusion

6. The Court of Common Council is recommended to agree the revised Terms of Reference of the Board of Governors of the City of London School and Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls to include oversight of the City

Junior School. The revised Terms of Reference have been endorsed by your Policy and Resources Committee and your Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls.

Appendix 1 – Proposed Revised Terms of Reference of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls.

Background Papers

[City Junior School Governance Structure](#) – December 2021

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 5th day of January 2022.

SIGNED by the Chairs

Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith, J.P.

Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls

Tim Levene

Chair of the Board of Governors of the City of London School