

VNHTT Strategic Board (VSB)

Terms of Reference



1. Key terms

Accredited ITT provider – St Mary’s College, which has full and final accountability for all aspects of training design, delivery, and quality across the partnership;

Lead partner - has an operational or strategic role with responsibilities delegated to them by the accredited ITT provider, such as trainee recruitment, delivering training, involvement in ITT curriculum design, supplying lead mentors/mentor leadership teams, or running Intensive Training and Practice.

Placement school(s) - will provide placements and general mentors.

2. Context

Accredited Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers must have regard to the mandatory guidance when carrying out their duties relating to ITT.¹

Vantage North Humber Teacher Training (VNHTT) is the trading name for St Mary’s College which has been designated by the Department for Education as an accredited provider of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) from September 2024.

St Mary’s College is part of St Cuthbert’s RC Academy Trust (SCRCAT) and therefore all accountability and final decision-making responsibilities for VNHTT ultimately rests with the SCRCAT Trust Board.²

The VNHTT Strategic Board [VSB] makes recommendations and is accountable to the SCRCAT Trust Board.

3. Purpose

The SCRCAT Trust board has formed these terms of reference to establish the Vantage Strategic Board to contribute to the strategic direction, support and challenge of the Vantage Leadership Team (VLT) in their work to fulfil the aims of VNHTT:

- Provide a high-quality Initial Teacher Training (ITT) curriculum which is underpinned by the best available evidence in teacher development and meets the DFE requirements to the highest standard.
- Deliver high-quality training which leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and produces confident, knowledgeable and effective Early Career Teachers (ECTs), well-placed to embed highly effective pedagogical habits and develop adaptive expertise.

¹ Department for Education. (2024), p.3, para 2. *Initial teacher training (ITT): Statutory guidance for accredited ITT providers in England*. Department for Education.

² Department for Education. (2024), p.3, para 4. *Initial teacher training (ITT): Statutory guidance for accredited ITT providers in England*. Department for Education.

- Address regional recruitment needs whilst contributing to raising standards and improving pupil outcomes.
- Secure high quality professional partnerships which bring together the best knowledge and expertise to contribute to the on-going development of our ITT programmes.

3.1 Duties and responsibilities

The VSB's responsibilities are to provide support and challenge to the Vantage Leadership Team with due regard to the mandatory guidance and legislation detailed in DfE statutory guidance for ITT³, including:

- **Strategic compliance** – ensuring statutory and legal obligations for ITT are met
- **Operational compliance** – ensuring operational management is meeting statutory and legal obligations for ITT, including compliance with ITE statutory criteria and requirements relating to the promotion of equality and diversity, the elimination of discrimination and safeguarding (including e-safety).
- **Monitoring and Quality Assurance** – ensuring oversight and accountability of the effectiveness of ITT provision to prepare the trainees for employment and induction.
- **Strategic direction** – To agree the vision and improvement plan and monitor and evaluate its delivery, ensuring forward planning meets the needs of the organisation, its core purpose and regional recruitment demands
- **Recruitment** - ensuring the recruitment and selection process is effective and responsive to the local context.
- **Assessment** – monitoring and quality assuring the ongoing formative assessment of trainees, and ensuring accurate and rigorous final summative assessments for the award of QTS. (VSB Assessment committee)
- **Moderation** - ensuring the external moderator's report is considered and contributes to on-going improvement.
- **Complaints and Appeals** – ensuring these are dealt with fairly and resolved speedily in accordance with the VNHTT Appeals and Complaints Policies (VSB Appeals committee)

The VSB will make recommendations to the SCRCAT Trust Board which will take any decisions needed and which ultimately holds full accountability for the performance and financial viability of VNHTT.

4. Membership

The VSB represents key stakeholders in VNHTT both from within St Cuthbert's RC Trust and the other trusts and maintained schools in its ITT partnership.

4.1 Quorum:

3 members (including a senior representative from SCRCAT)

4.2 The Chair

³ Department for Education. (2024). *Initial teacher training (ITT): Statutory guidance for accredited ITT providers in England*. Department for Education.

The Director of Vantage TSH will act as the Chair when present and will report back on the VSB's work to the SCRCAT Trust Board. In his absence, a Chair will be elected from the SCRCAT members present to fulfil this role.

4.3 Members

VSB membership will include representation from each partner trust to ensure that the views of key stakeholders are taken into account.

- Director Vantage TSH (or deputy) - Chair
- CEO SCRCAT [The Accounting Officer] (or deputy)
- CEO Lead Partner (or deputy)
- Headteacher SMC (or deputy)
- Senior Trust representatives – one from each partner trust (SCRCAT, HCAT, HET, Thrive, Venn)

4.4 Invitees

The Head of VNHTT, Secondary Programme Lead and Primary Programme Lead will be invited to attend all VSB meetings.

Trainee representatives may be invited to attend to provide feedback, if required.

4.5 Meeting schedule

The VNHTT Strategic Board will meet termly – usually in the last fortnight of the term. Meetings run from 10.30 – 12.30.

- Term 1 – December
- Term 2 – March/April
- Term 3 – June/July

5. Sub-committees: Assessment committee, Appeals committee

- **Assessment committee** – Director VTSH, senior representative from SCRCAT and at least 2 non-SCRCAT members. Head of VNHTT to be invited.
Meets once a year in July to scrutinise and authorise the award of QTS to those trainees put forward for this recommendation
- **Appeals committee** – At least three members from the VNHTT Strategic Board or SCRCAT Trust Board who have not had previous dealings or knowledge of the trainee's situation or complaint.
Meets as required to assess evidence to decide whether to uphold or overturn the VLT's decisions in matters where a trainee has appealed e.g. over disciplinary decisions, or course termination decisions due to progress or professionalism concerns.

6. Finance

Financial matters are dealt with by the SCRCAT Trust Finance Committee to the Board which meets at least termly and as required to:

- adopt the annual budget and scrutinise the report from the official auditors
- ensure proper stewardship of funds paid by the DfE and Student Loans Company

- review actual income and expenditure against each budget heading and revise the forecast for the year ensuring best value for money
- review financial reports as to the effectiveness of financial procedures and controls.

Last updated: 12/02/2026