Southwark Collaborative

Terms of Reference for the Collaborative Working Group

1. Background

1.1 A series of conferences have been held involving schools in Southwark and representatives of the Local Authority. It has been agreed to set up a Collaborative with a working group to develop the arrangements.

1.2 The Southwark Schools Collaborative is being created to provide the mechanism by which the Council and the schools will work in partnership. A set of shared objectives have been developed during the conferences and when achieved will enable the Collaborative to be fit for purpose. These are to:

a. Develop a model that:
   - puts children’s welfare and learning at the centre and focusses on improving their lives so that they are ready to learn
   - enables all schools and others engaged in education in the borough to be fully engaged,
   - ensures collective accountability and responsibility,
   - ensures that there is fair access to resources and that they are well balanced and respond to needs
   - empowers schools and enables them to share with others what they do well and benefit from the expertise and skills of others in the education landscape in Southwark
   - enables effective self-evaluation against national best practice so that the Collaborative can retain what works well at present and build on it as a firm foundation and achieve value for money.
   - has a set of clear shared values; ensure that the values include transparent decision making, trust and honesty and engenders a collegiate environment in which to work together
   - prepares a set of protocols that will underpin interactions and will reflect the need to enable collaboration while acknowledging competition and the maintenance of each individual schools’ ethos
   - is democratic and engages all stakeholders. The process will be open and transparent, including the development of ‘clusters’ of schools if they emerge as part of the model.

2.0 Purpose of the Working Group

2.1 The working group will direct and implement a practical and efficient set of arrangements by which the Collaborative operates addressing:

   - Governance arrangements
   - How schools work together
   - Finance and resources

2.3 The working group will consult meaningfully with all schools in Southwark

2.4 The working party will work to an agreed timeline.

3. Membership

3.1 The working group will have up to 13 voting members. The membership of the working group will be a broad and balanced representation of the schools in Southwark:

   - Nursery Schools
   - Primary Schools
   - Special Schools
   - Secondary Schools- SASH
   - Teaching School Alliance
   - Faith Schools
   - Headteacher’s Consultative body
   - Resource Based Schools
   - Academies and Free Schools
   - Local Authority
   - Executive Headteacher
   - Southwark Governors Association

3.2 The working group will elect a Chair from its membership.

3.3 The working group will decide how to clerk and manage meetings and resources and disseminate information.

4. Accountabilities

4.1 The working group will agree the status and accountabilities of the Collaborative moving forward.

* Title to be agreed
Version 2