

has at least 10 governors, all appointed by the Abbot and with him as President. The other trustees are 3 monks (not employees of the school), at least 5 lay members, and the Chair of the Worth Abbey Finance and General Purposes Committee. The role of this charity is to run the school in the leased premises.

24. Under the Worth model, the Abbey trustees retain the power to appoint and dismiss all school governors. Probably this is more theoretical than real, given the potential for pressure by parents, the statutory agencies and others. In my view it is not an appropriate model for St Benedict's, given what has happened there. Nevertheless, the Worth model is preferable to the single charity system at Ealing.
25. I have come to the firm conclusion, especially given the issues leading to this Inquiry, that the form of governance of St Benedict's School is wholly outdated and demonstrably unacceptable. The Abbot himself has accepted that it is 'opaque to outsiders'. It does not have the appearance of allowing for independent scrutiny of the ongoing relationship between Abbey and School. He accepts that in the case of Father Pearce (see table in paragraph 33 below) the commitment to trust within the community and to St Benedict's rule of love and forgiveness appears to have overshadowed responsibility for children's welfare.
26. In a school where there has been abuse, mostly (but not exclusively) as a result of the activities of members of the monastic community, any semblance of a conflict of interest or lack of independent scrutiny must be removed. It is not part of my role to devise new governance trusts in detail. It is necessary that I should give clear signposts to the drafting of any new governance Deeds. In principle, it is clear to me that a revised governance model must reflect that the current structure allows for a conflict of interest at the very least between two vital groups of beneficiaries, the pupils of St Benedict's School and the Monastic Community. To avoid this, future governance of St Benedict's School must be independent of the governance of the Trust of St