

SLET. This body was comprised of people who were particularly distinguished in their chosen profession. Members came from a range of backgrounds from legal, banking and finance through to public service and education.

As part of the constitutional changes, members of the Abbot's Advisory Committee for Ampleforth College were invited to become trustees of SLET, changing the composition from an entirely monastic trusteeship to one which is one third monastic and two thirds lay.

Whilst SLET is chaired by the Abbot, this position is likely to change in the near future and it is anticipated that one of the lay trustees will take the chair. I consider this to be an important move because historically, the advice of our lay trustees has been integral to the improvement of the operation of Ampleforth generally. The input of SLET's lay trustees has been invaluable in gaining a comprehensive understanding of how the quality of education and safeguarding can best be improved.

- c) The Vice-Chair of SLET is a lay person, who as a matter of course, takes the chair of the meeting for the standing safeguarding item on the agenda.
18. SLET is the governing body of the School. It takes the strategic decisions as to how the School should be run and sets forward targets as well as measuring performance against those targets. One of the lay trustees of SLET always sits on the Safeguarding Commission (the 'Safeguarding Trustee'). This means that the trustees receive an oral report from the Safeguarding Trustee. At present, this role is fulfilled by Margaret Simpson, a solicitor specialising in family law.
19. SLET reviews its own requirements for trustees and nominates prospective trustees who are then approved by the Nominations Committee (a body of AAT). Following approval from the Nominations Committee, SLET trustees are then appointed by The Ampleforth Abbey Trustees (as the sole corporate member of SLET).
20. The monastic and lay trustees of SLET work collaboratively and have a fiduciary duty to advance the purposes for which SLET was settled. Chief amongst those purposes is:
- "the education of children, young persons and mature students, in accordance with the doctrines and principles of the Roman Catholic faith."*
21. The mixed lay/monastic trusteeship of SLET provides a broad skill set upon which the foundations of the School's governance are built. At the time of making this statement there are six lay trustees to four monastic trustees so the lay trustees are in a clear majority.