

## Terms of Reference

**Title:** Commission on the future for independent schools (“the Commission”)

**The purpose of the Commission:**

The aim of the commission is to establish a vision for independent schools<sup>1</sup> in England.<sup>2</sup>

**Remit of the commission:**

**The commission has been established to understand:**

- (a) The purpose of independent education.
- (b) What a successful independent education system would look like.
- (c) The future role of independent schools as part of the wider education system.
- (d) The public view of independent schools and how to build public support for independent education.
- (e) To identify what reforms might be needed to achieve the above.

**Evidence process:**

Civitas will seek a wide range of views to inform the final report.

This is likely to include:

- (a) working with expert bodies to gather existing evidence.
- (b) a survey of potential stakeholders with expertise in this area.
- (c) one to one interviews.

**Independence:**

- (a) Civitas is a charity and is established for charitable purposes only.
- (b) Research conducted by Civitas must remain independent of external influence or the influence of outside groups or organisations.
- (c) Civitas will retain full editorial control of the final report and its recommendations.
- (d) The Commission is independent of any outside groups and political affiliation.
- (e) Civitas will be mindful of its integrity and public profile in making recommendations likely to attract widespread support.

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<sup>1</sup> The term ‘independent school’ is a broad term that can be difficult to define. It is used here to refer to schools that have the ability to: (a) charge fees, (b) select pupils (c) set their own curriculum (d) and are directly accountable to parents. This is not an exhaustive list but is intended to be distinct from ‘academy’ and ‘free’ schools within the state-maintained sector.

<sup>2</sup> The focus of this research is on England.

**Transparency:**

Civitas will publish the names of organisations or individuals who provide financial support to the Commission.