

Code of Conduct for Governors

This code sets out the expectations and commitment required from Governors in order for the Local Governing Body to properly carry out its work within the trust, school and the community.

As an individual on the Local Governing Body, I agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- I will act with selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership (Seven Principles of Public Life - Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life 2012)
- I understand the purpose of the Local Governing Body (LGB) and the role of the Headteacher.
- I accept that I have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Trust Board has given me delegated authority to do so, and therefore I will only speak on behalf of the Trust or LGB when I have been specifically authorised to do so.
- I accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the LGB or its delegated agents. This means that I will not speak against majority decisions outside the meetings.
- I have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as I have responsibility for staff, I will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- I will encourage open government and will act appropriately.
- I will consider carefully how my decisions may affect the community and other schools.
- I will always be mindful of my responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the trust and my school. My actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school I will follow the procedures established by the trust board.
- I will actively support and challenge the Headteacher.

Commitment

- I acknowledge that accepting office as a Governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- I will involve myself actively in the work of the LGB, and accept my fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups (as necessary).
- I will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where I cannot attend explain in advance why I am unable to.
- I will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve myself in trust and/or school activities.
- I will seriously consider my individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- I accept that in the interests of open government, my full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the LGB, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing me will be published on the Trust's website.

Relationships

- I will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- I will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all my communications with other governors.
- I will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- I will be prepared to answer queries from other governors in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns expressed, and I will acknowledge the time, effort and skills that have been committed to the delegated function by those involved.
- I will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, CEO, staff (school and trust), parents, the community, Board Trustees and other relevant agencies

Confidentiality

- I will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside of the school or trust.
- I will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school or trust business arise outside of a meeting.
- I will not reveal the details of any board vote

Conflicts of interest

- I will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people I am connected with) that I have in connection with the school/trust's business in the Register of Business Interests, and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting I will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time. I accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the trust's website.
- I will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- I will act in the best interests of the trust and my school as a whole and not as a representative of any group.

Breach of this code of conduct

- If I believe this code has been breached, I will raise this issue with the Chair of Governors or, in the case of a breach by the Chair, with the Trustee who chairs the Area Governance Committee. For information: The Trust Board will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.