



Local Governing Body (LGB) Code of Conduct 2024-25

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from local governors.

Once this code has been adopted by each LGB, all members agree to faithfully abide by it.

We agree to abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

We will focus on our core governance functions:

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

As individual local governors, we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
2. We will undertake to uphold the object of the trust (see Appendix 1)
3. We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our scheme of delegation.
4. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our Trust.
5. We agree to adhere to school/trust policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
6. We will work collectively for the benefit of the Trust.
7. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
8. We will consider how our decisions may affect the schools and local community.
9. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
10. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
11. We will only speak or act on behalf of the LGB if we have the authority to do so.
12. When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
13. We will strive to uphold the schools and trust's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).
14. We will not discriminate against anyone and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the LGB, and accept our fair share of responsibilities.
2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
4. We will get to know the schools well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
5. We will visit the schools and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe protocol.
6. When visiting the school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
7. We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Build and maintain relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities.
2. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other local governors and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
3. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each local governor's contributions are valued equally.
4. We will support the chair in their role of leading the LGB and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
2. We will not reveal the details of any LGB vote.
3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.

4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the LGB's business, and these will be recorded in the register of business interests.
2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the schools' and Trust's websites.
5. We will act in the best interests of the Trust as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our 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 us will be published on the schools' and Trust's websites.
7. We accept that information relating to LGB members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about Schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

Appendix 1

The Company's object ("**the Object**") is specifically restricted to the following:

to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which:

(i) shall include Church of England Academies ("**Church Academies**" and each a "**Church Academy**") designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and

(ii) may include other Academies whether with or without a designated religious character; but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England.

Where an Academy is designated as or recognised as a Church Academy, in relation to the ethos and religious education provided at the academy the Directors shall have regard to any advice and follow any directives issued by the Diocesan Corporate Member.
