

Governors Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Local Governors

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from governors in order for the local governing body to properly carry out its work within the academy, the multi-academy trust and the community.

The purpose of the local governing body:

The multi-academy trust is the academies' accountable body. The multi-academy trust is committed to the principle of local governance by local people and has resolved to create local governing bodies to support them in delivering strategic management and operational oversight for the academy.

Local governing bodies have an important role to play to promote high standards and to ensure that the students are attending a successful academy which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

The local governing body:

- Works within the multi-academy trust vision and strategic direction.
- Challenges and supports the academy by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating progress against targets and ensuring good financial management of academy funds.
- Ensures accountability of the headteacher, and/or the executive headteacher if appointed, and staff to the local governing body and ultimately the Trust.

The governing body is a corporate body, which means:

- No governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full local governing body;
- All governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made, and
- Although appointed through different routes (i.e. parents, staff, community or Trust), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the academy as a whole and to develop its role within the Trust.

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, the day to day management of the academy and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.

The local governing body accepts the following principle and procedures:

General:

- We understand the purpose of the local governing body and the role of the headteacher, as set out above.
- We are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the local governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice
- We will encourage open government and will act appropriately.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the local governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the local governing body meeting.
- We will not enter into dialogue or express our views on social media even if not acting in the capacity of a governor of the academy.
- We will consider carefully how decisions may affect the community and other schools and the multi-academy trust.
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the reputation of our academy and of the Academy Trust. Our actions within the academy and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the academy we will follow the procedures established by the multi-academy trust.

Commitment:

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the local governing body, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- If acting as governors, we will not go beyond our duties or act outside of the powers of authority conveyed on us, and acknowledge that were we to do so we could be held liable to the academy and/or third parties.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings where we cannot attend explain in advance in full why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the academy well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in activities at the academy.
- Our visits to the academy will be arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the local governing body and agreed with the headteacher.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- We are committed to actively supporting and challenging the headteacher.
- We are committed to working with the multi-academy trust to support both the academy and the wider development of the Multi-Academy Trust.

Relationships:

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other governors.
- We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We are happy to answer queries for other governors in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns expressed, and we will acknowledge the time, effort and skills that have been committed to the delegated function by those involved.
- We recognise that the roles of governor, staff member and volunteers in school are different. Where I am also a staff member and/or volunteer in school I will maintain the separation of my roles and keep matters discussed at the governing body confidential.
- We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff and parents, the multi-academy trust, local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

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

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the local governing body's business in the Registrar of Business Interests.
- We will declare any pecuniary interest – or personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest – in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We will act in the best interests of the academy as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the local governing body.

Breach of this code of practice

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate; the local governing body should seek to resolve any difficulties or disputes constructively;
- Should it be the chair that we believe has breached this code, another governor, such as the vice chair will investigate;
- We understand that any allegation of a material breach of this code of conduct by any governor shall be raised at a meeting of the local governing body, and, if agreed to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be minuted and can lead to consideration of suspension or in some circumstances removal from the local governing body.

The Governing Body of (name of academy) adopted this code of practice on (date).

Undertaking:

As a member of the governing body I will always have the well-being of the pupils and the reputation of the academy at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the academy and the Academy Trust, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the academy, the local governing body, the multi-academy trust, the head teacher or staff.

Signed.....

Printed Name.....

Date.....

Key document details

Last Review	August 2017
Department/Owner	Finance
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