



Governance code of conduct

For all those involved in the governance of the Trust

General

- We recognise that the Executive is responsible for the implementation and operation of policy, curriculum and general management of the schools, within the broad approach set by the trust board.

Commitment

- We will each involve ourselves actively, attend meetings regularly and accept our fair share of responsibilities, as relevant to our governance role.
- We acknowledge that accepting office involves commitment of significant time and energy.
- In the event that we cannot attend a meeting, we will send our apologies to the relevant chair and clerk in advance.
- We will not bring any individual issue to meetings without following agreed procedures and protocols regarding agenda items and any other business.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development.
- We will at all times bear in mind our main "object", as defined in our Articles of Association: "to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum."

Confidentiality

- We will observe confidentiality regarding governance proceedings in meetings and from school visits.
- We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school/trust arises outside governance meetings.
- Governance meetings are not open to the public. Trustees/local governors can decide whether anyone who is not a trustee/local governor may attend a meeting. Visitors should be asked to leave if confidential items are discussed, except where the trustees/local governors have asked them to take part in a specific discussion.
- Agendas, accompanying papers and minutes will be made available to anyone who wishes to see them. However, the following exceptions apply and the information will be treated as confidential:
 - Any matter relating to a named teacher, pupil or candidate for admission to a school
 - Any other matter which, by reason of its nature, the board or LGB agrees should be dealt with on a confidential basis
 - How individuals vote, individual opinions or details of deliberations involved in making decisions.

Conduct

- We work as a team in the best interests of the schools within the trust. We share collective responsibility to maintain a strategic approach.
- We have no legal authority to act individually, except when given delegated authority to do so.
- We will only speak or act on behalf of the organisation when specifically authorised to do so.
- We encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents (committees or LGBs). This means we will not speak out against governance decisions, in public or private, outside of these meetings.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting a school we will follow the procedures established by the local governing body.
- Any school visits will be undertaken in agreement with the headteacher.
- We seek to develop effective working relationships with other members/trustees/local governors, headteachers, staff, parents, the DfE and other relevant agencies or community representatives.
- In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our schools and trust.
- We will abide by the rules and protocols set out in our Articles of Association in order to conduct our business in a fair and transparent manner.