

## ALSTON LANE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### GOVERNING BODY CODE OF PRACTICE

#### **Mission Statement**

*'To develop the whole child, leading them towards reaching their full potential within a Catholic Environment'*

#### **Introduction**

The governing body has adopted the following principles and procedures:

#### **Commitment**

We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.

We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body, attend regularly, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.

We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.

We will accept the necessity of addressing our individual and collective needs for training and development. To this end, we will, on a regular basis, monitor and evaluate our own effectiveness as a corporate body.

#### **General**

As governors of a voluntary school with a religious character we have a legal responsibility to ensure that the school is conducted according to Christian values and the teachings of the Church. However, whilst all governors share the same generic responsibilities it is the foundation governors who are appointed in order to fulfil special legal responsibilities. Briefly, these are:

- to preserve and develop the school's religious character; and
- to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with the trust deed of the Lancaster Diocese and religious order.

We will maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the school.

We will support the school in meeting its statutory responsibility to provide the best education for each individual pupil and enable him/her to reach his/her highest standard of attainment.

We will set up a strategic framework for the school: determining, monitoring and keeping under review its aims and objective, policies and targets, and the procedures within which the school operates.

We will recognise and support the headteacher and his/her responsibilities for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and for advising on and implementing the governing body's strategic framework.

We will promote community cohesion, both as individuals and collectively, supporting the school to enable it to fulfil this duty.

As a corporate body, with a collective responsibility, we have powers to delegate some responsibilities to individual governors, to committees and/or to the head: to this end we must have a clear and agreed scheme of delegation.

We will be fully accountable in the way we carry out our functions as a governing body.

We accept we have no legal authority to act individually except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so.

We accept that all governors have equal status and although elected/appointed by different groups our over-riding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole.

We recognise that some governors, because of the specific positions they hold on the governing body have greater responsibilities and duties.

We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.

We will act with due regard for the well-being of children in other schools and communities in supporting the activities of our own particular school.

### **Confidentiality and Conduct**

We will encourage open governance and shall be seen to be doing so.

We will develop effective working relationships with community and parent groups, the LA and other relevant agencies, including the Diocesan/Church Education Authority, where appropriate.

We will establish a clear procedure through which concerns and complaints can be addressed.

We accept that it is our general duty to act fairly and without prejudice at all times.

We will operate as a team, actively developing constructive relationships, using the skills and talents of all members.

We will encourage the open expression of views within meetings.

We will accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents.

We will accept that all discussion in reaching decisions is kept confidential to the meeting.

When items of business are determined to be confidential, all members of the governing body are bound by that confidentiality. They must therefore exercise the greatest prudence when potentially contentious issues affecting the school arise outside the governing body.

We will only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when specifically authorised to do so.

Our visits to school will be undertaken within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher.