

Local Governing Committee

Code of Conduct

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) is responsible for promoting high educational standards. The LGC aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school, providing them with a good education and supporting their well-being.

The LGC has the following core strategic functions:

- ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- monitoring the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

As individuals on the LGC we agree to the following:

We will abide by the 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 apply the highest standards and will:

- act within our powers
- promote the success of the school and Trust
- exercise independent judgement
- exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
- avoid conflicts of interest
- not accept benefits from third parties
- declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements

Roles & Responsibilities

- We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
- We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our Scheme of Delegation
- We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school and Trust.
- We agree to adhere to School and Trust policies and procedures.
- We will work collectively for the benefit of the school and trust.
- We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- We will consider how our decisions may affect the school, Trust and local community.
- We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
- 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.
- We will only speak or act on behalf of the Local Governing Committee if we have the authority to do so.
- When making or responding to complaints, we will follow the established procedures.
- We will strive to uphold the school's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).
- We will have regard to our responsibilities under [The Equality Act](#) and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.
- We will act as the local ambassadors for our trust.

Commitment

- We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the LGC and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
- We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
- We will get to know the school well and welcome opportunities to be involved in school activities.
- We will visit the school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and LGC protocol.
- When visiting the school or discussing the school (including on social media) in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.

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- We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Relationships

- We will develop effective working relationships with leaders, staff, parents, the Church community and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities.
- We will champion the voices of our school community and stakeholders.
- We will establish effective working relationships with trustees.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
- We will work to create an inclusive environment where each LGC member's contributions are valued equally.
- We will support the chair in their role of leading the LGC and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of the school and Trust when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
- We will not reveal the details of any LGC vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- Should we become aware of any breach, or perceived breach in confidentiality regarding LGC, school or Trust business, we will inform the Chair of the LGC without delay.
- If we are unsure as to whether a matter is deemed confidential, we shall treat it as such until advised otherwise.
- We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Conflicts of interest

- We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the LGC, School or Trust's business, and these will be recorded in the register of business interests.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- 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.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school and trust's website.
- We will act as a Local Governing Committee member; not as a representative of any group.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the LGC, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school website.
- We accept that information relating to LGC members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

Breach of this code of conduct

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

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair and the Trust Governance Officer in order for an investigation to be carried out. Suspension/removal will only be used as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
- Should it be the Chair that we believe has breached this code, another Governor, such as the Vice Chair will investigate.

Declaration

I have read, understood and accept the above terms and conditions and will act in accordance to this Code of Conduct for LGC Members. I understand that breaching this Code of Conduct may result in my suspension or removal from the LGC.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

