

Code of Conduct for School Governors

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from governors in order for our governing body to properly carry out its work within the school and the community.

The purpose of the governing body

As the school's accountable body the governing body is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body aims to ensure that students attend a successful school that provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. Foundation governors also understand the purpose of education to be to enable all students in fulfilling their God given potential, meet the needs of society and transmit knowledge and culture (National Society). As a vibrant Christian learning community our vision is to be an outstanding school of first choice, providing excellence for all abilities in and out of the classroom.

The governing body sets its work within a framework of prayerfulness and an awareness of God's care for every member of the school and wider community.

The governing body:

Sets the strategic direction of the school by:

- Setting the values, aims and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the policy framework for achieving those aims and objectives.
- Setting targets
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy which includes approving the budget and agreeing the staffing structure.

Challenges and supports the school by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating:

- The implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework.
- Progress towards targets
- The implementation and effectiveness of the school improvement strategy
- The workload and welfare of Staff
- The budget and the staffing structure.

Ensures accountability by:

- Receiving reports and signing off progress towards the Federation Development and Improvement Plan
- Responding to Ofsted reports when necessary
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the performance of the school
- Ensuring parents/carers and students are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate

- Making available information to the community

Appoints, manages the performance of and appraises the Head teacher who will deliver the aims (through the day to day management of the school, implementation of the agreed policy framework and school improvement strategy, and delivery of the curriculum) and report appropriately to the governing body.

For governing bodies to carry out their role effectively, governors must be:

- Prepared and equipped to take their responsibilities seriously;
- Acknowledged as the accountable body by the lead professionals;
- Supported by the appropriate authorities in that task: and
- Willing and able to monitor and review their own performance.

The role of a governor

In law the governing body is corporate body, which means:

- No governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full governing body
- All governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made
- Although appointed through different routes (i.e. Parents/Carers, Staff, Local Authority and Foundation), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.
- Foundation governors represent the historic link with the original establishment of the school and its distinctive religious ethos.

Declarations

- We understand the purpose of the governing body and the role of the Head teacher as set out above.
- We are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life: see appendix
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- 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 encourage open government and will act appropriately
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing body meeting.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.

- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.

Commitments

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of a time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including services on committees or working groups.
- 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 school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- Our visits to school will be:
 - Arranged, in advance, with the Headteacher/staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body as 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.

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 prepared to answer queries from 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 will seek to develop effective working relationships with the head teacher, staff and parents/carers, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.
- Foundation governors will develop their links with the faith communities supporting us

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or students, both inside or outside school
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a governing body meeting.

- We will not reveal the details of any governing body vote.

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the governing body's business in the Register of Business Interests.
- We will declare any pecuniary interest – or a 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.

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 governing body should only use suspensions 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;
- we understand that any allegation of a material breach of this code of practice by any governor shall be raised at a meeting of the governing body, and, if agreed to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be recorded in the minutes and can lead to consideration of suspension from the governing body.
- We are aware of the provisions of regulation 15(1) of the School Governance (Procedures) (England) regulations 2003, as amended, which pertain to the grounds for suspension as a school governors, Schedule 6 of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 and Schedule 4 of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, relating to the disqualifications from the role of school governors (held as a separate document)

The Governing Body of St. Michael's Federation adopted this code of practice on

17th November 2015

Governors will sign the Code at the first governing body meeting of each school year.

Signed:

Date:

Leah Hughes

Chair of Governors, St. Michael's Federation.

Appendix: The Seven Principles of Public Life

The seven principles of public life was originally published by the Nolan Committee. The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations.

1. **Selflessness** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits from themselves, their family, or their friends.
2. **Integrity** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
3. **Objectivity** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
4. **Accountability** holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
5. **Openness** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands
6. **Honesty** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
7. **Leadership** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and by example.