

The National Governance Association's Code of Conduct for School Governors **2022** sets out the expectations of and commitment required from Governors in order for Local Governing Bodies to carry out their work properly within their schools and in the community.

The Purpose of the Local Governing Body

An ODST Local Governing Body (LGB) is delegated powers to act on behalf of Trustees as the school's accountable body through a scheme of delegation. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The LGB aims to ensure that children are attending an effective school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. Over recent years the responsibilities of LGBs have grown to encompass the outcomes of pupils, school's responsibility for pupils; behaviour and children and young peoples' health and well-being in the community and for a wide range of extended services provision out of school hours.

The Local Governing Body

The LGB establishes the strategic direction of the school, by:

- 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;
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent;
- ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

The LGB ensures accountability, by:

- recommending the appointment of a Headteacher;
- setting and monitoring progress towards targets;
- performance managing the Headteacher;
- monitoring the performance management and associated salary decisions for staff
- ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding for children and pupils;
- engaging with stakeholders;
- fostering a greater understanding of and promotion of all forms of equality and respect;
- ensuring the highest expectations for behaviour;
- leading the school's self-evaluation.

Ensures financial probity, by:

- Setting the budget to ensure vision and ambition for the school;
- monitoring spending against the budget;
- ensuring the effective use of grants and additional funding
- ensuring value for money is obtained;
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed.

Ensures that others in the school community get their voices heard by:

- Gathering the views of pupils, parents and staff and reporting on the results;
- reaching out to the school's wider community and inviting them to play their part;
- using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies and procedures.

As individuals on the LGB once this code has been adopted, we agree to faithfully abide by it. We recognise and support the principles set out in the [Charity Governance Code](#)

We will abide by the Principles of Public Life (*annexed*).

We will apply the highest standards and will:

- act within our powers;
- promote the success of the ODST;
- 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;
- We will focus on our core governance functions:

As individuals, we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities and will:

- accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management;
- fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our Scheme of Delegation;
- develop, share and live the ethos and values of ODST;
- agree to adhere to Trust policies and procedures;
- work collectively for the benefit of the School and ODST;
- be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account;
- consider how our decisions may affect the Trust and local community;
- 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, speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities;
- only speak or act on behalf of the Trust Board if we have the authority to do so;
- fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
- when making or responding to complaints, will follow the established procedures;
- strive to uphold the School's and the Trust's reputation in our private communications (including on social media);
- have regard to our responsibilities under [The Equality Act](#) and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all;
- act as the local ambassadors for ODST.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role and will:

- involve ourselves actively in the work of the LGB and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required;
- make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to;
- arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol;
- get to know the school well and welcome opportunities to be involved in school activities;
- visit the school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and ODST protocol;
- when visiting a school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), continue to honour the commitments made in this code;
- participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis;
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Build and maintain relationships and will:

- develop effective working relationships with leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities;
- champion the voices of our school community and stakeholders;
- establish effective working relationships with Trustees;
- *engage with and be accountable to those governing at local level.
- express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings;
- work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally;
- support the Chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality and will:

- observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of the school and the Trust when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families;
- not reveal the details of any LGB vote;
- ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately;
- maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent. We will:

- declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business, and these will be recorded in the [register of business interests](#);
- also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise;
- If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote;
- accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the ODST and the school's website.
- act as a Trustee/LGB member; not as a representative of any group;
- accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the LGB/Trust Board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of Governor and the body responsible for appointing us, will be published on the school's and ODST's website.
- accept that information relating to LGB members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.
- We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

We agree that this code of conduct will be reviewed annually and it will be endorsed by the LGB.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Date: _____

Adopted by the Local Governing Body of **[name of school]** on **[date]**.

Once this code has been adopted, all LGB members agree to faithfully abide by it.

We recognise and support the principles set out in the [Charity Governance Code](#)

The Seven Principles of Public Life

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.

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 for themselves, their family, or their friends.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.