



St Mary's C of E Infants School

Governor Code of Conduct

The Governors seek to be a well informed and committed Corporate Body who work as a team to serve the School and foster its aims. They are entrusted to develop and maintain the School's distinctive Christian character. The Governing Body is a critical friend to the School, providing informed support and constructive challenge.

The purpose of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is the School's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the School, for the promotion of high standards and for the fostering and maintenance of the School's distinctive Christian ethos. The Governing Body aims to ensure that children are attending a successful School which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. The Governing Body has legal responsibility for the governance of the School.

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
 - 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 budget and the staffing structure
- Ensures accountability by:
 - Signing off the Self Evaluation process
 - Responding to Ofsted, SIAS and other statutory reports when necessary
 - Holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the School
 - Ensuring parents, pupils, and other stakeholders are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
 - Endeavouring to make information available to the community

- Discharges responsibility for staffing by:
 - Appointing and managing the performance of the Headteacher who:
 - delivers the aims of the School,
 - implements the agreed policy framework and improvement strategy,
 - delivers the curriculum
 - Ensuring the well-being of all staff, including their work/life balance
 - Receiving timely and appropriate reports from the Headteacher.

The role of a Governor

In law the *Governing Body* is a 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, and
- Although appointed through different routes, the overriding concern of all Governors must be the welfare of the whole School.

As an effective Governing Body, St Mary's governors are:

- 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.

As members of St Mary's governing body we will each strive to achieve the following objectives:

General

- Understand the purpose of the *Governing Body* and the role of the Headteacher
- Accept the Nolan seven principles of public life: (see appendix)
- Accept that we have no legal authority to act individually and will speak on behalf of the *Governing Body* only when we have been authorised to do so.
- Act fairly and without prejudice and in dealings with staff, fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- Encourage open governance and act appropriately.
- Accept collective responsibility for all decisions of the *Governing Body* and not speak against majority decisions, outside the *Governing Body*.
- Take reasonable account of how our decisions may affect the community and other partnership schools.
- Be mindful of our responsibility to develop the Christian ethos and reputation of our School; conscious that our actions within the School and the local community will reflect this.

- Follow established procedures when responding to criticism or complaints affecting the School.

Commitment

- Acknowledge that being a Governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- Involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing Body and accept our fair share of responsibility.
- Make every effort to attend all relevant meetings and offer apologies if unable to do so.
- Get to know the School and involve ourselves in School activities.
- Arrange visits to School in advance and undertake these within the framework agreed with the Headteacher.
- Consider our individual and collective needs for, and undertake, training and development.
- Actively support and challenge the Headteacher.

Relationships

- Work as a team to promote constructive working relationships.
- Express views openly, courteously and respectfully.
- Support the chair and vice-chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct.
- Answer queries from other Governors about delegated functions, take into account concerns expressed, and acknowledge the time, effort and skills committed by others.
- Maintain proactive working relationships with the Headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority, the Church, relevant agencies, and the community.

Confidentiality

- Observe complete confidentiality over relevant matters that concern members of staff or pupils.
- Exercise prudence when discussions regarding School business arise outside a Governing Body meeting.
- Not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.

Conflicts of interest

- Record in the Register of Interests, any interest relevant to the Governing Body's business.
- Declare any real or perceived pecuniary or personal interest in a matter under discussion, and offer to leave the meeting.

Breach of this code of practice

- If any governor believes this code has been breached, he or she will raise the matter with the Chair (or Vice-Chair if necessary) who will investigate.
- Any allegation of a material breach of this code shall be raised at a meeting of the Governing Body and if substantiated shall be minuted, leading to possible suspension.
- 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 Governor and of Schedule 6 to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 relating to the disqualifications from the role of School Governor (held as a separate document).

The Governors of St Mary's C of E Infants School agree to sign this Code of Conduct at the first full Governing Body meeting of each School year.

Undertaking:

As a member of the Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the children and the reputation of the School at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the School, publicly supporting its aims, values and Christian ethos.

Name of Governor

Signature and Date

Sam King

Michelle East

David Exham

Allan McKay

Louisa Nutt

Sarah Stafford

John Summers

Hannah Whittaker

Appendix: 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.