code of conduct for LGB

Code of conduct for the Local Governing Bodies (LGB)

It is important that confidence in the good governance and probity of the board of the Trust is maintained. In order to assist the board of trustees (the **board**) achieve this, each Academy in the Trust has adopted this code of conduct for governors who make up the local governing body (the **code**).

The local governing body (**LGB**) is the Academy's accountable body responsible to the Trust for the conduct of the Academy and for promoting high standards. The LGB aims to ensure that students and pupils are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

The LGB is responsible to the Trust for its actions and is expected to follow the expectations of governors as laid down by the Trust. These expectations mirror those which apply to board of directors of the Trust, as follows;

The Academy:

- aims to establish a LGB that is competent, accountable, independent and diverse that promotes best practice in governance

The Trust shall use The Good Governance Standard for Public Services as a guide to help the LGB achieve good governance but also as a tool to regularly assess the strengths and weaknesses of the academy's governance practice and improve it.

- aims to make sure that its governors promote and uphold high standards of conduct, probity and ethics

Each governor shall uphold the seven principles of public life identified by the Nolan Committee on Standards in public life (May 1996).

- requires its governors to act in accordance with the Trust's articles of association and associated scheme delegation (the **articles)** and the code

Each governor shall obey the articles and decisions taken by the board and LGB in accordance with the articles.

Application of the code

This code applies to all governors and committee members of the LGB when exercising any of the board's powers delegated to them under the articles.

By accepting appointment to the LGB, each governor agrees to accept the provisions of this code.

The good governance standard for public services

The standard prepared by The Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services in 2005 comprises six core principles of good governance, each with its supporting principles. Set out below is an extract of these core principles.

Good governance means focusing on the organisation's purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users.	We will: • be clear about the Academy's purpose and its intended outcomes for citizens and pupils • make sure that pupils receive a high quality education • make sure that taxpayers receive value for money
Good governance means performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles.	We will: • be clear about the functions of the LGB • be clear about the responsibilities of non-executives and the executive, and making sure that those responsibilities are carried out • be clear about relationships between governors and the public
Good governance means promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour.	We will: • put organisational values into practice • behave in ways that uphold and exemplify effective governance
Good governance means taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk.	We will: • be rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken • have and use good quality information, advice and support • make sure that an effective risk management system is in operation
Good governance means developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective.	We will: • make sure that appointed and elected governors have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well • develop the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluate their performance, as individuals and as a group • strike a balance, in the membership of the board, between continuity and renewal
Good governance means engaging stakeholders and making accountability real.	We will: • understand formal and informal accountability relationships • take an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public • take an active and planned approach to responsibility to staff • engage effectively with institutional stakeholders

Nolan principles

The board expects each governor to uphold the following principles based on the Nolan Committee's work:

- **selflessness** - take decisions solely based on the vision and values of the Trust
- **integrity** – not be compromised in carrying duties by outside organisations or personal interest
- **objectivity** – remain impartial and ensure choices are made on merit alone
- **accountability** – be responsible for decisions and actions
- **openness** – give reasons for actions wherever possible and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands
- **honesty** – declare any private interests and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest
- **leadership** – promote these principles by example

Additionally, the board expects governors to promote equality and diversity in all aspects of the Academy's governance and when carrying out any of their functions.

Duties & responsibilities

Governors shall:

- fulfil their responsibilities and duties as a governor of the Academy in good faith and:
    - act in the best interests of the Academy
    - secure the proper and effective use of the Academy's property
    - act personally in all respects
    - act within the scope of any authority given to them by the board or LGB by law, by regulations or by the articles
    - use the reasonable skill and care when making decisions
- act in accordance with the articles from time to time
- be committed to the Trust's values and objectives (including equal opportunities), to contribute to and share responsibility for the LGB's decisions, to read LGB papers and to attend meetings, training sessions and other relevant events
- declare all interests they have as required by the articles and the general law and to comply with any rules requiring withdrawal from a meeting where this is required because of an interest
- respect the confidentiality of information that they may have access to as a governor of the Academy and keep confidential the affairs of the LGB
- inform the clerk to the LGB as soon as possible should any changes to their circumstances occur during their term as a governor, including if:

- there are any changes to the interests which have been declared
- they become, or cease to be, a company director, board member or trustee of another company or charity
- their occupation changes
- they move house
- they become employed by the Academy

Breaches of the code

Every governor is under a duty to report any breach of this code or any grounds for believing that a breach of the code has occurred to the LGB chair (and if the allegation is about the chair, to the vice-chair).

Failing to report a breach of the code is itself a breach of this code.

Any breach of this code will be treated extremely seriously by both the LGB and the Academy and may result in suspension or removal from the LGB.

In the event of a breach of this code each governor agrees to participate fully in any investigations procedure instigated by the LGB and to abide by any sanction that may be imposed on them by the LGB for such breach.

Review

The Chair of the board will be responsible for ensuring that this code of conduct is kept under review.