

**Brine Leas School**  
**An Academy**

## **GOVERNOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD**

- Establishing the strategic direction, by:
  - Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, values, and objectives for the school in conjunction with the Academy Trust.
  - Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets, in conjunction with the Academy Trust where appropriate.
  - Meeting statutory duties.
  
- Ensuring accountability, by:
  - Appointing the headteacher in conjunction with the Academy Trust.
  - Monitoring the educational performance of the school/s and progress towards agreed targets.
  - Performance managing the headteacher in conjunction with the Academy Trust.
  - Engaging with stakeholders.
  - Contributing to school self-evaluation.
  
- Overseeing financial performance, by:
  - Setting the budget within the parameters set by the Academy Trust.
  - Monitoring spending against the budget and reporting to the Academy Trust.
  - Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained.
  - Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed in conjunction with the Academy Trust.

### **GOVERNOR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Governors agree to the following:

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the executive leaders.
  
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
  
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing board meeting.
  
- 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 governance and will act appropriately.

- 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 and the wider Academy Trust. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by the governing board and/or the Academy Trust.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leadership team.
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation.
- We will respect the role of the senior leadership team and their responsibility for the day to day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements.
- We agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies, and the procedures of the governing board as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role we will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views.
- When communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) we will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation

## **COMMITMENT**

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor/sub-committee member involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the school/s well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will visit the school, with all visits arranged in advance with the headteacher, headteacher's PA or Head of Area, and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as a governor.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training.

- We accept that, in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing 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 website.
- In the interests of transparency, we accept that information relating to governors will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Edubase).

## **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, the clerk to the local governing board and school staff, both in and outside of meetings.
- 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 and MAT Trustees 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 senior leadership team, staff and parents, the trust, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside school.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times, when discussions regarding school/trust business arise outside a local governing board meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any local governing board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people we are connected with) that we have in connection with the governing board's business in the Register of Business Interests, and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school/trust's website.

- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the local governing board.

### **CEASING TO BE A GOVERNOR/TRUSTEE/ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a governor leaves office

### **BREACH OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate. The governing board or trustees will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
- As per the new regulations which came into force in September 2017, it is possible for all categories of governor to be removed from office due a breach in conduct or for non-attendance (as set out in the Articles of Association). This includes staff and parent elected governors.
- Should it be the chair that we believe has breached this code, another governing board member, such as the vice chair or the board of trustees will investigate.
- The Trustees/LGB will follow the procedure for removal as outlined in the 'Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools' August 2017, C.6 Regulation 25.

<b>Prepared by:</b> J Furber / E Fletcher	<b>Date:</b> January 2018
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## **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.

**Integrity** - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

**Objectivity** - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

**Accountability** - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**Openness** - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

**Honesty** – Holders of public office should be truthful

**Leadership** – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.