



Code of Conduct for Governors of Great Whelnetham CEVCP School

The 3 core functions of governance are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Key Principles of Governance:

- We act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school
- We work as members of a team at all times and we are loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body
- We recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities unless particular responsibilities are conferred on them by the full governing body
- We understand that no governor can act alone except in exceptional circumstances prescribed in the regulations – the power of the governing body rests in it acting as a single body
- We recognise that the headteacher is responsible for the implementation of the policy, day-to-day management of the school and the implementation of the curriculum

We, as governors, accept that we must:

- Respect confidentiality
- Declare openly and immediately any personal conflict of interest or pecuniary interest arising from a matter before the governors or from any other aspect of governorship
- Support decisions of the governing body in public
- Know, understand and work within legal requirements
- Consent to a confidential criminal record check, if asked, to ensure that we are not disqualified and to meet child protection requirements

And that we should:

- Listen to and respect the views of others
- Express our views as clearly and succinctly as we can
- Take our fair share of work and positions of responsibility
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand and gaining an understanding of the issues to be discussed
- Attend training and take responsibility for our own learning and development as a governor
- Attend meetings promptly, regularly, and share an expectation of attending the whole meeting

- Get to know the school and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities
- Undertake visits to the school within a framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher

Breach of this code:

- Should we feel that this code has been breached by any of our membership the issue will be raised with the Chair of Governors who will investigate. The Governing Board will only move to suspend or remove a governor as a last resort after seeking to resolve the issue or dispute in more constructive ways.
- If it is believed that the Chair of Governors has breached this code, another governor, such as the Vice Chair will investigate.

The Nolan Principles: The Seven Principles of Public Life

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 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 it.

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.

Adopted by the governing board of Great Whelnetham CEVCP

DATE: 21.06.17