



Avenue Primary School

Governing Board Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

‘Expect the Best ...To be the Best’

School Aims:

- To ensure that all pupils whatever their race, gender, age or ability feel valued and supported to achieve their best
- To promote positive learning attitudes and behaviour and create safe and effective learning environments where all children and staff show mutual respect for one another
- To provide effective and strategic leadership at all levels
- To deliver high standards of teaching that enable children to make progress and reach high standards of attainment.

Purpose:

All governors are responsible for carrying out their duties with the utmost integrity. The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide governors with clear guidelines as to their standard of behaviour, responsibilities, and best practice in fulfilling their obligations to the Governing board.

Appendix 1 is intended to provide Governors with a useful guide to practice and conduct when visiting the School, within a monitoring role, during the working day.

Our obligations:

As governors of the school we aim to provide outstanding governance that drives improvement and holds senior leaders to account for the quality of teaching and learning, levels of achievement, the safety and well-being of pupils and staff and the effective management of the school’s financial resources.

Our overarching aim is to ensure that pupils receive the best possible education to enhance their life choices.

To achieve our aims, we recognise that we must be fully committed to the work of the governing board and carry out our duties with utmost integrity.

We will:

- Involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups
- Attend and actively contribute to meetings of the governing board and its committees
- Be well prepared for meetings so that well considered decisions can be taken
- Take responsibility for developing knowledge and the understanding of our roles and the skills we need to be effective governors through training and learning
- Visit the school regularly to learn more about how it operates
- Carry out our duties collectively, other than when responsibilities have been delegated by the governing board to committees or individuals
- Be respectful of each other's views in all our communications with other governors
- Be bound by decisions of the governing board and its committees regardless of our personal views
- Set the strategic direction of the school, monitor and evaluate our decisions and hold senior leaders to account for performance
- Recognise that the headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school and complying with his/her statutory responsibilities
- Recognise that when individual conflicts of interest or conflicts of loyalty arise these should be declared, and that governors declaring the interest should withdraw from the discussion
- Update our personal information in the governing board's register of interests when this changes or at least annually

In carrying out our duties we will have regard to:

- The likely long term consequences of our decisions
- The interests of our pupils and employees
- The need to foster positive relations with the wider school community, our partners and our suppliers
- The need to act transparently and fairly, putting the interests of the school and the governing board beyond our personal interests
- Maintaining the reputation of the school and the governing board
- The need to make the best use of resources

Confidentiality

Any information about named individuals, safeguarding issues or sensitive commercial information should always to be treated as confidential.

Where the governing board has determined information to be confidential, we ensure that this information is not shared outside of the governing board.

The way that we each vote, and the opinions expressed by individual governors should always be regarded as confidential.

Seven Principles of Public Life

As a public board we are committed to the Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness: Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or their friends.

Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that may 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 their decisions and the 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.

Failure to adhere to the code of conduct:

Governors who fail to comply with the code of conduct could be deemed to have brought their office as a governor or the reputation of the governing board into disrepute. Following an investigation this could result in removal from the governing board.

This power is confirmed on the Local Governing Board by the DfE document - The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools August 2017 Paragraph C5, Page 23.

Review:

This code of conduct will be reviewed, as deemed necessary, by the Chair of Governors or, in line with Local Authority or revised Government legislation.

Date Reviewed: Spring Term 2022