



Code of Conduct for Governors at Clifford Holroyde SEN School

The Purpose of the Governing Body

The Governing Body:

- Is the school's accountable body
- Is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards
- Aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being

In recent years the responsibilities of Governing Bodies have grown, and schools are now accountable for children's health and well-being in the community and for a wide range of extended services provision out of school hours.

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
 - Setting statutory targets
 - 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 report
 - responding to external reviews and Ofsted reports when necessary
 - holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the school
 - ensuring parents and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
 - making available information to the community
- Appoints and performance manages the Headteacher who will deliver the aims (through the day to day management of the school, implementation of the agreed policy framework and school improvement strategy, and delivery of the curriculum) and report appropriately to the Governing Body

For Governing Bodies to carry out their role effectively, governors must be:

- 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
- Willing and able to monitor and review their own performance

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
- although appointed through different routes (i.e. parents, staff, Local Authority), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the school as a successful educational establishment.

The Governing Body Accepts the Following Principles and Procedures

General

1. We have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates.
2. We recognise that our head teacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, management of the school and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.
3. We accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed by different groups (i.e. parents, staff, Local Authority) our overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole.
4. We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Governing Body has given us delegated authority to do so, and we will only speak on behalf of the Governing Body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
5. We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all the legal expectations as, or on behalf of, the employer.
6. We will encourage open government and shall be seen to be doing so.
7. We will consider carefully, how our decisions may affect other schools and the community.
8. We are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life (see appendix).
9. We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Governing Body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the Governing Body meeting.
10. We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
11. In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the Governing Body.

Commitment

12. We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
13. We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing Body, attend regularly and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups. When we cannot attend we will explain in advance when and why we cannot attend.
14. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
15. We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
16. We are committed to actively supporting and challenging the Principal.

Relationships

17. We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
18. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with our head teacher, staff, parents, the Local Authority, other relevant agencies and the community.
19. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other governors.
20. We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
21. We are prepared to answer queries from other governors 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.

Confidentiality

22. We will observe confidentiality regarding our visits to school as governors.
23. We will observe confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the Governing Body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students.
24. We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the Governing Body.
25. We will not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.

Conflicts of Interest

26. We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the Governing Body's business in the Register of Business Interests.
27. We will declare any pecuniary interest - or a personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest - in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.

Breach of this Code of Practice, Suspension and Removal

28. If we believe this Code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair and the Chair will investigate (if the Chair has breached the Code of Conduct for Governors then either the Headteacher (if he/she is a governor) or the Vice Chair (if the Headteacher does not have governor responsibility) will investigate); the Governing Body should only use suspension as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
29. We understand that any allegation of a material breach of this Code of Conduct for Governors by any governor shall be raised at a meeting of the Governing Body, and, if agreed to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be minuted and can lead to consideration of suspension from the Governing Body.
30. 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 Governing Body of Clifford Holroyde SEN School

adopted this Code of Conduct for Governors on

All governors will sign the Code of Conduct for Governors at the first Governing Body meeting of each school year.

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 ethos. I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or staff.

I agree to the terms of the Code of Conduct for Governors.

Signed _____ **Printed name** _____
Date _____

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.