

Beddington Infants' School

Governing Board Code of Conduct 2022-23



This code sets out the expectations and commitment required from members of the governing board, at Beddington Infants' School

As holders of public office, governors always conduct themselves in accordance with the seven principles of public life (the Nolan Principles):

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Governing Boards have the following core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

As individual governors we agree to fulfil these core functions through adherence to the following principles and commitments:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the role and responsibilities of the board and the headteacher as outlined in the Department for Education (DfE) Governance Handbook.
- It is the responsibility of all governors to ensure that they are familiar with the guidance contained within the Governance Handbook.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that being a governor involves the commitment of time and involvement in school life, and to our own individual professional development.
- We will actively involve ourselves in the work of the governing board, including serving on committees/working groups and making regular visits to the school.

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- We will prioritise attending all meetings and if this is not possible, we will submit our apologies and explanation at least 24 hours in advance to the clerk to the governing body.
- We will develop our knowledge of the school through regular visits and involvement in school activities.
- We will reflect on our individual knowledge, skills and experiences, relevant to governance, and how these impact on individual and collective training and development needs of the governing board. We will access appropriate training and development activities in order to contribute to effective governance of the school.

Collective Responsibility

- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing board. We will not speak against decisions outside board meetings, irrespective of personal views.
- We will always act in the best interests of the school and not represent individual or group interests.
- We will work as a team where professional relationships are maintained and respected.
- We will express views appropriately, openly and courteously in all our communications.
- We will support the role of chair in ensuring appropriate and effective governance at all times.

Confidentiality

- We will observe confidentiality at all times, particularly regarding individual members of staff or pupils at the school. We will not discuss the content of meetings until the board approves the public minutes at its next meeting.
- We will always exercise discretion when discussions regarding school business arise outside governing board meetings.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote, including our voting intentions or history.

Conflicts of interest

- We will record relevant business and pecuniary interests in the Register of Interest and ensure that individual entries are regularly reviewed and updated. This will

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include interests arising from relationships between governors or between governors and school staff, including spouses, partners and close relatives.

- We will declare any potential conflict at the start of each meeting.
- We will always give careful consideration to perceived and clear conflicts of interest.

Breach of this code of conduct

- If we believe a governor's actions or behaviour during a meeting have breached this code, we will always challenge this openly during that meeting.
- If we believe a breach of the code of conduct has happened outside a meeting, this should be raised with the chair and addressed with the outcome reported at the next board meeting.
- If a governor's action or behaviour requires investigating, this will be undertaken by the chair. In the event that it is the chair's actions or behaviour that is being questioned, the vice chair will investigate.
- The governing board, when considering breaches of this code, recognises its powers to suspend and or remove governors and will apply these appropriately.

Suspension of governors

- If a governor's actions or behaviour is considered of such significance that it constitutes a breach of confidentiality or threatens to bring the school, governing board or the office of governor into disrepute, the board can consider suspension for a period up to six months.

Removal from office

- The governing board in determining whether to remove, rather than suspend a governor will consider the following.
 - There have been repeated grounds for suspension.
 - Serious misconduct has occurred which either threatens to bring the school, governing body or governance into disrepute.
 - There has been serious or repeated failure to contribute meaningfully to the effectiveness of governance at the school, such as non-attendance at meetings, not engaging in training or not participating in meetings.
 - They have engaged in conduct aimed at undermining British Values.
 - The actions of the governor are sufficiently detrimental and compromise the operational efficiency of the school.

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In signing this code of conduct I accept the expectations implicit within it and agree to be accountable for my own conduct.

Name:

Signature.....

Date: