

Code of Conduct for the Governing Body

Dale Hall Community Primary School

The governing body has adopted the following principles and procedures:

Purpose of the governing body

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

The core functions of governance

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

We understand our responsibilities to ensure that Safeguarding and Prevent protocols are in place and are working effectively.

We appoint and performance manage the headteacher who will deliver the aims through the day to day management of the school, implement the agreed policy framework and school improvement strategy, deliver the curriculum and report appropriately to the governing body.

The Governing Body abides by the Nolan Principles:

- **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 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.

Code of conduct

1. We understand the purpose of the governing body and the role of the headteacher as set out above.
2. We accept that we have no authority to act individually and we will only speak on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.

Commitment

7. We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
8. We will each actively involve ourselves in the work of the governing body and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
9. We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend, explain in advance why we are unable to do so.
10. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.

11. We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training.

Providing challenge

12. We are individually and collectively committed to actively supporting and challenging the headteacher.

13. All papers will be read **prior** to meetings and questions prepared. We understand that we have both an individual and collective responsibility to hold the senior leadership to account.

14. Formal visits to the school will be arranged in advance and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher.

15. We will provide timely reports back to the relevant committee regarding our individual monitoring activities.

Relationships

16. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully.

17. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with our head teacher, staff and parents, the local authority, other relevant agencies and the community.

18. We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct.

Confidentiality

19. We will observe confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside and outside the school.

20. We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a governing body meeting.

21. We will not reveal the details of any governing body vote.

Conflicts of Interest

22. We will record any pecuniary interests in connection with the governing body's business in the Register of Business Interests.

23. 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 Conduct

24. If we believe this Code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate; the governing body will only use suspension as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.

25. We are aware of the provisions of regulations which pertain to the grounds for suspension / disqualification of a school governor

**The Governing Body of Dale Hall Community Primary School
reviewed and adopted this code of practice on 26 September 2023**