

## **Code of Conduct for Governors of Camps Hill Community Primary School**

### **General**

The governing body will contribute most effectively to the school's aims by focusing on its three roles:

- 1. to provide a strategic view**
  - 2. to act as a critical friend**
  - 3. to hold the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of education it provides, and in turn to be accountable to stakeholders.**
- **Governors have the responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates. The head teacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management and organisation of the school and operation of the curriculum.**
  - **All governors whatever their category, have equal status. Although governors are appointed/elected by different groups, their central and shared concern must be what is best for the current and future pupils of the school.**
  - **Governors have a general duty to act fairly and without prejudice at all times, and to act in accordance with the Nolan Principles.**
  - **In so far as they have, or share, responsibility for the employment of staff, governors should fulfil all reasonable expectations of a good employer.**
  - **Governing bodies should consider carefully how their own decisions might affect other schools.**
  - **Governing bodies should encourage open governance and should be seen to do so.**
  - **Governors do not act alone but as members of a corporate body. Individual governors have power only when it is delegated specifically to them by the whole governing body at a properly convened and minuted meeting.**

### **Commitment**

- **Being a governor involves a significant amount of time and energy. This should be kept in mind when agreeing to serve or to continue to serve on a governing body.**
- **All governors should involve themselves actively in the work of the governing body and accept a fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees.**

- **Regular attendance at meetings of both the full governing body and committees is essential.**
- **Governors should know their school well and take opportunities to visit it and become involved in school activities.**

### **Relationships**

- **Governors should strive to operate as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.**
- **Governors should develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff, parents, the LA and their local community.**

### **Confidentiality**

- **Governors must observe complete confidentiality, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff, pupils or parents.**
- **Although decisions reached at governors' meetings are normally made public through the minutes or otherwise, the discussions on which decisions are based should be treated as confidential.**
- **Governors should exercise the utmost prudence when discussions of potentially contentious issues arise outside the governing body.**

### **Conduct**

- **Governors should express their views openly in governing body meetings but must accept collective responsibility for all decisions.**
- **Governors should not purport to speak or act on behalf of the governing body except when they have been specifically authorised to do so.**
- **All visits to school should be undertaken within a framework which has been established by the governing body and agreed with the Headteacher.**
- **In responding to criticism or complaints relating to the school, governors should refer to the school's agreed Complaints Procedure and advise the complainant accordingly.**
- **Governors have the responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the school. Their actions within the school community should reflect this. In particular, they should keep in mind that actions they take as a private individual, including as a parent, may be perceived as taken on behalf of the governing body.**
- **Any pecuniary interest that a governor may have in connection with the governing body's business must be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.**
- **Where an interest is declared, the governor must leave the meeting while the item is under discussion**

## **The seven principles of public life (Nolan Committee)**

**1 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.

**2 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.

**3 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.

**4 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.

**5 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.

**6 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.

**7 Leadership**—Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

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