



ARAGON PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY CODE OF CONDUCT

This code sets out the expectations on, and commitment required from, school Governors in order for the Governing Body to properly carry out its work within the school and the community. Once approved by the governing board, the Code will apply to all governors.

In 1994, the Nolan Committee set down seven principles of public life and these provide the context in which this code has been created. The principles are as follows:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

The Governing Body has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic vision for the school by:

- Setting the vision, values and objectives for the school.
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability by:

- Participate with Trustees on the appointment of the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

Ensure that other key players with a stake in the organisation get their voices heard by:

- Gathering the views of pupils, parents and staff and reporting on the results.
- Reaching out to the school's wider community and inviting them to play their part.
- Using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies and procedures.

General Principles

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the executive leaders.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing board meeting.
- 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.
- We will encourage open governance and will act appropriately.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school/group of schools. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by the governing board.
- We will actively support and challenge the executive leaders
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation.
- We will respect the role of the executive leaders and their responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements.
- We agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the governing board as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role we will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views.
- When communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) we will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a Governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and, where we cannot attend, explain in advance why we are unable to do so.
- We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing Body and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on Committees and Working Groups.
- We will get to know the school well and take opportunities to involve ourselves in the life of the school.
- When we visit the school, all visits will be arranged in advance with the relevant staff and will be undertaken within the framework established by the Governing Body in the Governor Visits Policy and agreed by the Headteacher.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e., as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as a governor.
- We will consider our individual and collective training and development needs and ensure that we develop and maintain our skills and knowledge.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
- In the interests of transparency, we accept that information relating to governors/trustees/academy committee members will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Getting Information About Schools).

Relationships

- We will strive to work co-operatively as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other Governors.
- We will support the Chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We are prepared to answer queries from other board members 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.
- We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff, parents, local authority and other relevant agencies and the wider community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside school, or where they concern a complaint or similar process in order not to taint any investigation.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a Governing Body meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately

Conflicts of Interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people we are connected with) that we have in connection with the Governing Body's business in the Register of Interests and, if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's website.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the governing board.

Ceasing to be a Governor

- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a governor leaves office

Breach of this Code of Conduct

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise the issue with the Chair and the Chair will investigate; the Governing Body will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
- Should it be the Chair that we believe has breached this code, another Governor, such as the Vice Chair, will investigate.

Adopted by the governing board of Aragon Primary School on the 10th October 2023



Signed by the Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body: