



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 Principal
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance by:

- 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:

- Monitoring the views of pupils, parents and staff.
- 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 accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
- We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our scheme of delegation.

- We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school/s.
- We agree to adhere to school/trust policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- We will work collectively for the benefit of the school.
- We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- We will consider how our decisions may affect the school and local community.
- We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
- Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
- We will only speak or act on behalf of the board if we have the authority to do so.
- We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
- When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
- We will strive to uphold the school's / trust's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).
- We will not discriminate against anyone and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

Commitment

- We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
- We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will visit the school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
- We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Relationships

- We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community/communities.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
- We will work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally.
- We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

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.
- 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/trustee and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school/trust website.
- We accept that information relating to board members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

Remote Attendance

Governors will ensure while attending remotely:

- Confidentiality and sensitivity of information must be considered, and conversations must not be conducted in a place where they will be overheard. Meetings must not take place on a train. Confirmation of confidentiality should be declared at each meeting.
- Due attention is given to the matters being discussed and multi-tasking e.g. by reading emails or watching TV is eliminated.
- Full participation in the whole meeting – not just the items on the agenda in which the governor has an interest or is voting. This may be waived with the agreement of more than 50% of actual governor attendees.
- They can identify themselves to the satisfaction of the other attendees.

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 12th October 2021

Signed:



The Aragon LGB agree that this code of conduct will be reviewed annually, upon significant changes to the law and policy or as needed and it will be endorsed by the full governing board.