



## **GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY GOVERNORS CODE OF CONDUCT 2016/17**

### **The purpose of the governing board**

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

### **The governing board:**

- Sets the strategic direction of the Academy by:
  - o setting the values, aims and objectives for the Academy
  - o agreeing the policy framework for achieving those aims and objectives
  - o setting statutory targets
  - o agreeing the school improvement strategy which includes approving the budget and agreeing the staffing structure
- Challenges and supports the Academy by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating:
  - o the implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework
  - o progress towards targets
  - o the implementation and effectiveness of the school improvement strategy
  - o the budget and the staffing structure
- Ensures accountability by:
  - o responding to Ofsted reports when necessary
  - o holding the head teacher to account for the performance of the Academy
  - o ensuring parents and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
  - o making available information to the community
- Appoints and performance manages the head teacher who will deliver the aims (through the day to day management of the school, implementation of the agreed policy framework and school improvement strategy and delivery of the curriculum) and report appropriately to the governing board.

For governing bodies to carry out their role effectively, governors must be:

- prepared and equipped to take their responsibilities seriously
- acknowledged as the accountable body by the lead professionals
- supported by the appropriate authorities in that task
- willing and able to monitor and review their own performance

### **The role of a governor**

In law the governing body is a corporate body, which means:

- no governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full governing board
- all governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made
- although appointed through different routes (i.e. parents, staff, appointed, co-opted or advisers), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the Academy as a whole

### **General**

- we understand the purpose of the governing board and the role of the head teacher as set out above
- we are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life (see appendix)
- we accept that we have no legal authority to act individually except when the governing 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 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 government and will act appropriately
- we accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing board meeting
- 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 Academy. Our actions within the Academy and the local community will reflect this
- in making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the Academy we will follow the procedures established by the governing board

### **Commitment**

- we acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy
- we will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board and accept our fair share of responsibilities including service on committees or working groups
- we will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance in full why we are unable to

- we will get to know the Academy well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in Academy activities
- our visits to school will be arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board and agreed with the head teacher
- we will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development and will undertake relevant training
- we are committed to actively supporting and challenging the head teacher

### **Relationships**

- we will strive to work 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 governors 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 head teacher, staff and parents, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the 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
- 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 board or committee vote

### **Conflicts of interest**

- we will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the governing board's business in the Register of Business Interests
- 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

### **Social Networking Sites**

- We will use social networking sites responsibly and ensure that neither our personal
- or professional reputation, nor the Academy's reputation is compromised by inappropriate postings. If we are ever in any doubt we shall take advice from a colleague and when we gain insight, we shall share it where appropriate
- This information will be published on our governors and any associate members. Any governor failing to provide information to enable the governing body to fulfil

their responsibilities may be in breach of the code of conduct and as a result be bringing the governing body into disrepute. In such cases the governing body should consider suspending the governor

### **Breach of this code of conduct**

- if we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate; the governing board should only use suspension as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways
- we understand that any allegation of a material breach of this code of practice by any governor shall be raised at a meeting of the governing board and, if agreed to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be minuted and can lead to consideration of suspension of the governor involved from the governing body
- we are aware of the provisions of the schools Articles of Association which relate to disqualification of governors and the procedure in the Full Governing Board terms of reference for removal of a governor if required.( held as separate documents on the governors secure portal)

**The Full Governing Board of Goldington Green Academy adopted this code of conduct on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Governors will review and sign the Code at the first governing body meeting of each school year.

### **Undertaking:**

As a member of the Governing Board I will always have the wellbeing of the children and the reputation of the Academy at heart. I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the Academy publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos. I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the Academy, the governing board, the head teacher or staff.

<b>Name of Governor</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>


## **Appendix: The Seven Principles of Public Life**

*(originally published by the Nolan Committee: The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations)*

### **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.

### **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 that 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.