

## **Governing Bodies and Governors Code of Conduct**

An effective governing body must have a clear sense of purpose and direction for its school. The governing body is accountable to the school community and broader community for the effectiveness of the school. In its work the governing body will collaborate with, and be questioning of, the Head and Staff, who are responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the school.

### **Aims:**

The aims of the governing body are:

- to support the school in meeting its statutory responsibility to provide the best possible education for each individual pupil;
- to be fully accountable to those who established and fund the school and also to the parents and the wider community for the way in which it carries out its functions as a governing body;
- to act at all times in accordance with the requirements laid down in Acts of Parliament, statutory regulations and the school's instrument of government;
- to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the school;
- to act with due regard for the well-being of children in other schools in supporting the activities of their own particular school;
- to ensure that the school's interests are properly represented at local level and at national level wherever and whenever appropriate.

### **Roles and Functions**

- All governors have equal status whether they are appointed, elected or co-opted; they reflect the interests of the community as a whole rather than the interests of any specific group.
- The governing body has an overall responsibility for school effectiveness; this will involve determining, monitoring and reviewing the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates as well as the outcomes of its activities.
- The head teacher, and not the governing body, is responsible for the implementation of agreed policy, the day to day management of the school and the operation of the curriculum.

- As a corporate body, with a collective responsibility, the governing body has powers to delegate responsibility to individual governors, to committees and/or to the Head: to this end, it must have a clear and agreed Scheme of Delegation.
- To inform their work, governors should take all possible opportunities for learning about the school and for participating in school activities.
- All school visits for whatever purpose should be undertaken within a framework that has been established by the governing body and agreed by the head teacher.
- Insofar as the governing body has a shared responsibility for the employment of staff, it should fulfil all reasonable expectations of a good employer.
- The governing body should develop effective working relationships with community and parent groups, the LEA and other relevant agencies, including the Diocesan Education Authority, where appropriate.
- The governing body should establish a clear procedure through which concerns and complaints can be addressed, including the conduct of governors and procedure for suspension of governors.
- The governing body should, on a regular basis, monitor and evaluate its own effectiveness as a corporate body.

### **Confidentiality and Conduct**

- The governing body should encourage open governance and should be seen to do so.
- The governing body has a general duty to act fairly and without prejudice at all times.
- The governing body should seek to operate as a team, actively developing constructive working relationships, using the talents and expertise of individual members.
- The governing body should encourage the open expression of views within meetings.
- Members of the governing body must accept all decisions of the governing body and be loyal to them.
- The discussion of governors in reaching these decisions is confidential to the meeting.
- The governing body must determine which items of business are confidential, particularly items relating to staff and pupils; all members of the governing body are bound by that confidentiality – hence they must exercise a high degree of prudence when potentially contentious issues come up in discussion outside of the governing body.
- In the case of items that are confidential to a particular committee or a nominated governor, all members of the governing body must recognise that without this confidentiality the fair following of procedures will be prejudiced.
- With the exception of any items deemed to be confidential, the governing body will make its decisions public through its minutes and reports.
- Governors may only speak on behalf of the governing body when specifically authorised to do so.