

Local Governing Board Code of Conduct

This Code aims to set and maintain standards of conduct that EKC Schools Trust expect all Governors of Local Governing Boards to follow. This code sets out the expectations and commitment required from school governors in order for the local governing board to properly carry out its work within the school and the community, to help us to ensure our Trust is an environment where everyone is safe, happy, and treated with respect.

The local governing board has the following key responsibilities:

- Set the vision of the individual academy within the vision, ethos and values of the EKC Schools Trust
- Work with EKC Schools Trust Executive Team to hold the Senior Leadership Team to account, manage the performance of the Headteacher and recruit new Senior Leaders
- Monitor the school budget and ensure best practice and value for money
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of the quality of education within the academy

As individuals on the Local Governing Board we agree to the following:

Role & responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the local board and the role of the headteacher.
- We will support and promote appropriate partnership and collaborations with other schools in the community and EKC Schools Trust
- We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.
- We acknowledge that the day-to-day management of the school and implementation of plans and policies of the Local Governing Body is the responsibility of the headteacher and other senior managers of the school.
- In so far as we have, or share, responsibility for the employment of staff, we will strive to fulfil all reasonable expectations of a good employer.
- We will take due account of views of parents, pupils' staff and other interested parties act fairly and without prejudice at all times
- We understand that we have no legal authority to act individually, make statements or express opinions on behalf of the local governing body except when the local governing body has given delegated authority by EKC Schools Trust to do so
- We will consider carefully how our own decisions might affect EKC Schools Trust, other schools and the community.
- We will encourage transparent governance and will do so through good communication systems with EKC Schools Trust, within the school, with parents and with the wider community
- We understand that all Governors have equal status and although Governors are appointed, co-opted or elected by different groups (e.g. parents, staff and the LA), their central concern is always the welfare of the school as a whole.

- We will have regard to our broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution, including the need to ensure public accountability for the actions of the Local Governing Body
- We will follow procedures established by EKC Schools Trust/the local governing body in responding to criticism or complaints relating to the school.

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 local 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 why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will visit the school, with all visits to school arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the local governing board and agreed with the headteacher.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training

Relationships

- We will strive to operate as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express our views openly, courteously, and respectfully in all our communication with other governors, the Chair, headteacher, Clerk, and staff both inside and outside of meetings and accept collective responsibility for all decisions.
- We will always support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and.

Confidentiality

- We will respect complete confidentiality of those items of business which the Local Governing Body decides from time to time should remain confidential, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff or pupils.
- We respect that the discussions on which the decisions are based will be regarded as confidential although decisions reached at Governors' meetings will normally be made public through minutes or otherwise,
- We will exercise the highest degree of prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside of the local Governing Body.

- 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 local governing board's business in the Register of Business 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 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 local governing body.

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

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate; the local governing board 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.

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.

I confirm that I have read and accept the Local Governing Board Code of Conduct.