

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

The governing body at Quinton Primary School has the following core strategic functions ...

1. *Establishing the strategic direction by:*

- Ensuring clarity of the vision, values and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the policy framework for achieving those values and objectives
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and performance targets
- Ensuring the school is undertaking its statutory responsibilities to ensure effective management and safeguarding practices

2. *Ensuring accountability by:*

- Appointing and performance managing the headteacher
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school and progress towards agreed targets
- Monitoring the performance management of staff
- Evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the Learning Improvement Plan
- Contributing to school self-evaluation
- Ensuring parents, pupils and other stakeholders are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate

3. *Overseeing financial performance by:*

- Signing off the agreed budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

As individuals on the governing body we agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the governing body and the role of the senior leaders.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing body 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 government 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. 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 body.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leaders to improve school performance.
- We will respect the role of the senior leaders and their responsibility for the day to day management of the school 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 body 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 school 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 school.

Commitment

- We will each undertake an Enhanced DBS check within 21 days of being appointed to the governing body to ensure we comply with the government's statutory guidance on "Keeping Children Safe in Education".
- 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 body and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on panels or working groups.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and training sessions and where we cannot attend explain well 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 and events.
- We will visit the school, with all visits to school arranged in advance with the headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development and will undertake relevant training.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing body, 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 will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors.

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, the clerk to the governing body and school staff in and outside of meetings.
- 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 to consider 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 senior leaders, 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 body vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a governor leaves 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 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 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 body.

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 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.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Undertaking

As members of the Governing Body we will always:

- Have the wellbeing of the children and the reputation of the school at heart
- We will do all we can to be ambassadors for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos
- We will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or Staff

The Governing Body of Quinton Primary School adopted this Code of Practice on

_____ Name of Governor	_____ Signed	_____ Name of Governor	_____ Signed
_____ Name of Governor	_____ Signed	_____ Name of Governor	_____ Signed
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