



THE BLIGH FEDERATION

Code of Conduct for the Governing Body of The Bligh Federation

Vision Statement: 'Unlocking potential for happy, lifelong learning'

Introduction

The role of the governor is a responsible one, with access to highly confidential information. This Code of Conduct provides governors with clear boundaries in terms of what is and is not acceptable conduct. It aims to provide consistent guidelines, enabling all governors to work within an environment of trust and mutual respect. Stakeholders are entitled to expect the highest standards of integrity from governors and to know that all decisions and actions taken are fair and impartial, respecting equality of opportunity for all.

General

- We understand that our role is strategic, not operational, and that our core functions are to establish strategic direction, ensure accountability and secure financial probity, as laid down in statute
- We recognise that the Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the federation and implementation of the curriculum
- We accept that all Governors have equal status, and, although appointed by different groups, our overriding concern is the welfare of the federation as a whole
- We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Governing Body has given us delegated authority 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 accept that in the interests of open government, our Governor details will be published on the federations website, in accordance with statutory guidance
- We will appoint new members on the basis of their skills and experience in order to support and work with the Governing Body in maintaining school improvement

Commitment

We accept that being a Governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy and we agree to:

- strive to work as a team
- be active and involved members of the Governing Body, attend meetings regularly, and share responsibilities, including service on committees, panels or working groups
- get to know the federation well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in the federation's activities
- actively support and challenge the Headteacher and her team
- prepare for meetings by reading paperwork beforehand
- take responsibility for our own learning and development by attending such training as is necessary to enhance individual, and augment the Governing Body's skills
- support new Governors with their induction

Conduct

We agree to work as a member of the team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions. In doing so we shall:

- abide by the Nolan Seven Principles of Public Life (See Appendix)
- abide by the principles of the Local Authority's Social Media, Internet and Email Guidelines
- follow established protocol when visiting the school
- have the best interests of the federation and the community at the heart of the decisions that we make, and accept collective responsibility
- always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the federation
- seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff and parents, and other relevant agencies and the community
- observe complete confidentiality inside and outside the Governing Body when required to do so by the Governing Body, especially regarding matters deemed confidential and when matters concern the federation's community
- will only speak or act on behalf of the Governing Body when we have been specifically authorised to do so
- inform the Governing Body and stakeholders of, and record any pecuniary or other business interests that may influence discussion and decisions, in the Register of Business Interests
- declare an interest if an item under discussion at any Governing Body or committee or panel meeting of Governors impinges upon our personal or family or financial situation, and leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time should any conflict matter arise

Breach of the Code of Conduct

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair, or Vice Chair as appropriate, who 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.

I have read and understood this document.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date of document: April 2012

Reviewed: July 2015 / Updated 1st January 2017 following amendment to the federation's constitution

Agreed by the Governing Body at its meeting held on 22nd September 2015

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Since the publication of Lord Nolan's report 'Standards in Public Life' in 1997, there has been an emphasis on public servants undertaking their duties with honesty, integrity, and openness. The report sets out seven principles which here have been worded to cover the role of the school Governor:-

Selflessness:

We will take decisions solely in terms of the interest of the federation and the community it serves. We will not seek to gain financially from our decisions, nor will we take decisions from which our friends or family financially benefit

Integrity:

As individuals we will not place ourselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence us in the performance of our official duties

Objectivity:

In carrying out our business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, we will make our choices on merit

Accountability:

We will be accountable for our decisions and actions to the wider community served by the federation and we will submit ourselves to a level of scrutiny appropriate to our office

Openness:

We will be as open as possible about all our decisions and actions. We will give reasons for our decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands it

Honesty:

We will declare any private interests relating to our public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the interests of the federation

Leadership:

We will promote and support these principles by leadership and example