



## Code of Conduct for Governors

November 2023

### Introduction

This Code of Conduct sets out the purpose of the governing body and describes the appropriate relationship between individual governors, the whole governing body and the leadership team of the school. It seeks to draw on best practice from a range of sources to help the governing body ensure that children are attending a successful, well led school which provides them with an outstanding education and fully supports all aspects of their well-being.

The code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from governors and school leaders in order for them to properly carry out their work within the school and the community.

There is no statutory framework for enforcing such a Code of Conduct or for dealing with situations where behaviour is unacceptable. In adopting this Code of Conduct the governing body is setting its own standards of behaviour and it is hoped that governors and school leaders will be mindful of this Code of Conduct in all their actions.

### What is the Governing Body for?

The governing body has four main roles:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent; and
- Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

### How is this different to the role of the Head?

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- The internal organisation, management and control of the school;
- Advising on and implementing the governing body's strategic framework;
- Formulating aims and objectives, policies and targets for the governing body to consider adopting
- Reporting on progress to the governing body.

### The role of individual governors

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

- No governor can act on their own without authority from the full governing body;
- All governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made, and
- Although appointed through different routes (i.e. parents, staff, Local Authority community, foundation), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.



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## **All members agree to faithfully abide by this Code of Conduct:**

We agree to abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

### **Selflessness**

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

### **Integrity**

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

### **Objectivity**

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

### **Accountability**

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

### **Openness**

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

### **Honesty**

We will be truthful.

### **Leadership**

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

## **As individual board members, we agree to:**

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
2. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school.
3. We agree to adhere to school policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
4. We will work collectively for the benefit of the school.
5. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
6. We will consider how our decisions may affect the school and local community.
7. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
8. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
9. We will only speak or act on behalf of the board if we have the authority to do so.



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10. We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
11. When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
12. We will strive to uphold the school's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).
13. We will not discriminate against anyone and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

## Demonstrate our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
4. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
5. We will visit the school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.
6. When visiting the school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
7. We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

## Build and maintain relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community.
2. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
3. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally.
4. We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

## Respect confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
2. We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

## Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business, and these will be recorded in the [register of business interests](#).
2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's website.



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5. We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school website.
7. We accept that information relating to board members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

**Adopted by Barningham CEVC Primary School Whole Governing Body on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

As a member of the Governing Body I undertake to abide by this code of practice at all times:

Name	Signature	Date
Stephany Hunter		
Rev Cathy Bladen		
Stephen Gallagher		
Julie Surridge		
Frances Kurtz		
Theo Morris		
Claire Walker		



# Barningham CEVC Primary School

Sandy Atwell		
Kevin O'Connell		
Dawn Pipe		

The Governing Body agree that this code of conduct will be reviewed annually, upon significant changes to the law and policy or as needed and it will be endorsed by the full governing board.

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