



Royal Free Hospital Children's School

Code of Conduct for Governors 2020/21

We understand the core strategic functions of the Governing Body are

- establishing the strategic direction,
- ensuring accountability, and
- ensuring financial probity.

In carrying out these functions, and our other duties, we, the governors, will conduct ourselves in line with the [Nolan Principles of Public Life](#): selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to enable the governing body to contribute to the school securing its inclusive ethos as a community special school, as well as ensuring the school provides a quality educational experience for all its pupils and achieves high standards. We undertake to abide by the principles and procedures set out below.

The governing body is a corporate body. We

- understand that as governors we have no legal authority to act or speak individually, except where the governing body has delegated authority to do so.
- accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed and elected by different groups, our central concern is to ensure the welfare of the school as a community special school
- take collective responsibility for decisions the Governing Body takes, will not speak against them outside Governing Body meetings and will not reveal details of votes.

As a member of the governing body, we are collectively responsible for determining the overall strategic direction of our school but we will take care not to become involved with the day to day management of the school. We acknowledge that this is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

The distinction between managing and governance is most important and we understand that there is a need for a positive and effective partnership within the governing body, with the Headteacher and the senior management team as well as an effective working relationship with the local authority and other relevant agencies.

To foster this, each of us will:

Responsibilities and Values

- Determine, monitor, support and keep under review the aims, objectives and ethos of the school, aiming to display this in everything we do
- Support and challenge the Headteacher actively
- Act fairly and without prejudice
- Fulfil all that is expected of a good employer
- Promote the interests of the school while considering carefully how our decisions may affect the wider community and other schools.
- Base our decisions on the facts presented, and not be swayed by other considerations.
- Promote openness and transparency as far as it is possible to do so
- Ensure that everything the school does or is done in the school's name promotes the fundamental British values of respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Relationships and Teamwork

- Work co-operatively with our fellow governors as a team in the best interests of the school by expressing views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications in and out of meetings.
- Acknowledge that differences of opinion may arise in discussion of issues but where the governing body takes a majority decision, this decision will be respected and upheld.

Confidentiality

- Observe confidentiality regarding proceedings of the governing body in meetings and from visits to the school as governors.
- Observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside and outside the school.
- Exercise prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a governing body meeting.

Commitment

- Acknowledge that becoming a governor requires a significant commitment of time and energy
- Make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- Get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in the life of the school.
- Involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing body, attending training and serving on Committees and Working Groups. Our visits to the school will be in line with the agreed arrangements and arranged in advance with the Headteacher within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the Headteacher.
- Consider our training needs and undergo appropriate training and keep up to date as much as we can.

Conduct in Meetings

- Support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- Refrain from texting and reading our texts during meetings as a matter of courtesy to those present in the room.

Conflicts Of Interest

- Record any pecuniary interest or personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest in the Register of Interests.
Declare any conflict of loyalty in a matter under discussion at the start of a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time during that item.

Breach of this Code of Conduct

If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair who will investigate, if we believe the Chair has breached the Code, then the Vice Chair

We agree that suspension and/or removal of a governor from office will be the last resort.

Undertaking:

As members of the Governing Body of Royal Free Hospital Children's School, we will always have the well-being 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 and following the procedures established by the governing body. We will never say or do anything publicly or use social media in any way that would embarrass the school, the governing body, the Headteacher or staff.

Agreed by all governors and signed on behalf of the Governing Body.

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Reviewed: Dec 2019

Due for review: Dec 2021

Approved by the Governing Body: 3/12/19

