



# **Chester-le-Street CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School**

## **Governor Code of Conduct**

*Our Core Christian Values: Hope ~ Respect ~ Compassion ~ Peace ~ Forgiveness*

### **1. As Governors we will focus on our strategic functions:**

- a) ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- b) holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- c) overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent
- d) ensuring the voices of all stakeholders are heard

### **As individuals on the Governing Body we agree to:**

#### **2. Fulfill our role & responsibilities**

- a) We accept that our role is strategic and so will not involve ourselves in day to day management or personal matters.
- b) We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school.
- c) We agree to adhere to school policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- d) We will work collectively for the benefit of the school.
- e) We will be honest and candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- f) We will consider how our decisions may affect the school and local community.
- g) We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective and not make public any voting by Governors.
- h) 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 persons.
- i) We will only speak or act on behalf of the Governing Body if we have the authority to do so.
- j) We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly, without prejudice and fully respecting confidentiality.
- k) When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
- l) We will do our utmost to uphold the school's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).

### **3. Demonstrate our commitment to the role**

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

### **4. Build and maintain positive relationships**

- a) We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community.
- b) We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with Governing Body members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
- c) We will support the Chair in their role of leading the Governing Body and ensuring appropriate conduct at all times.

### **5. Respect confidentiality**

- a) 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.
- b) We will not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.
- c) We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- d) We will maintain absolute confidentiality even after we leave as a Governor.

### **6. Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent**

- a) We will declare all business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the Governing Body's business and these will be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.
- b) We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- c) 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.

- d) We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's website.
- e) We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
- f) 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.
- g) We accept that information relating to Governing Body members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database of Governors (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

I understand that potential for perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions such as my suspension or removal.

I have read and understood the Code of Conduct and I agree to abide by it.

\_\_\_\_\_ name in print

\_\_\_\_\_ signed

\_\_\_\_\_ dated