



A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST THOMAS MORE



Introduction

The following is not a definitive statement of responsibilities but is concerned with the common understanding of broad principles by which the Local Management Board (LMB) and individual governors will operate.

The LMB accepts the following principles and procedures:

General

1. We have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates.
2. We recognise that our Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy and day-to-day management of the school and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.
3. We accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed by different groups such as the Diocese, parents and staff - our overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole.
4. We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the LMB has given us delegated authority to do so.
5. We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all the legal expectations as, or on behalf of, the employer.
6. We will encourage open government and should be seen to be doing so.
7. We will consider carefully, how our decisions may affect other schools.

Commitment

8. We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
9. We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the LMB, attend meetings regularly and accept our fair share of responsibilities.
10. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
11. We will ensure that our individual and collective needs for training and development are consistently monitored, and opportunities to undertake relevant training are encouraged.

Relationships

12. We will strive to work as a team
13. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff, parents, SHCAT and other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

14. We will observe complete confidentiality regarding proceedings of the LMB in meetings and from our visits to school as governors.
15. We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the LMB, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or pupils.
16. We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the LMB.

Conduct

17. We will encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the LMB or its delegated agents. We will not speak out against decisions, in public or private, outside the LMB.
18. We will only speak or act on behalf of the LMB when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
19. In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the Trust.
20. We will not make comments about the school on social media or reply to posts about the school or staff from other members of the community.
21. Visits to school will be undertaken within the framework established by the LMB in agreement with the Headteacher and staff.
22. In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands this.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any public interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

From the 'Second Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life', The Nolan Committee, 1996



GOVERNORS CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

ST THOMAS MORE

I understand that all governors have a duty not to discuss any item of governors' business outside the meeting.

I understand that if a governor is found in breach of his or her duty of confidentiality to the school, staff or to the pupils, the LMB can decide to suspend a governor for up to a period of six months.

I have read and understood this statement.

Signed _____

PLEASE PRINT NAME _____

Date _____