



Framwellgate Moor Primary School

Governor Code of conduct

August 2023

This Code of Conduct will support the approach Governors take in their role as Strategic Leaders. It will help promote the unique character of Framwellgate Moor Primary School and uphold its ethos.

We will 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.

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 relevant law.
- d) We will fully cooperate with individual requests that are necessary to ensure the school is a safe place such as disclosure & barring checks as well as Section 128 checks.
- e) We will work collectively for the benefit of the school.
- f) We will be honest and candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- g) We will consider how our decisions may affect the school and local community.
- h) We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective and not make public any voting by Governors.
- i) 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.
- j) We will only speak or act on behalf of the Governing Body if we have the authority to do so.
- k) We will fulfill our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly, without prejudice and fully respecting confidentiality.
- l) When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
- m) We will do our utmost to uphold the school's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).
- n) We will have due regard to our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

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 including, where relevant, other schools.
- 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 all 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 will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
- e) 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.

- f) We accept that information relating to Governing Body members will be collected and recorded on the Department for Education's national database of Governors (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

7. Declaration

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 Governor Code of Conduct and I agree to abide by it.

_____ name in print

_____ signed

_____ dated