

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY (LANCHESTER)

ADOPTED ON THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2013.

**Revisions presented and adopted 25th September 2014, 19th November 2015,
20th October 2016**

Introduction

This Code of Conduct is to be used as a basis for clarifying the behaviour and conduct expected of all school governors. Whilst recognising that every governing body works and operates differently according to the type of school there is nevertheless a general expectation of the standard of behaviour that is acceptable. This Code of Conduct seeks to articulate that expectation in a framework that can be easily understood by all governors and is recommended for adoption by your governing body.

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

This Code is based on guidance given by the Department for Education (DFE). Their website address should you want more information is www.dfe.gov.uk.

We will need to give thought to how it is brought to the attention of new members and how it is reviewed from time to time.

Aims and Standards

- The purpose of our governing body is to help the school provide the best possible education for its pupils.
- All governors are expected to contribute to the development of the school, its strategic framework, developing its policies, determining the character and ethos of the school.

- Governors are expected to behave as “critical friends” to the school at all times. This includes offering support, constructive advice, a sounding board for ideas, a second opinion on proposals and help where needed. On occasions this will include challenging and asking questions of the headteacher.
- The governing body is accountable to those who established and fund the school and also to parents and the wider community for the way it carries out its functions.
- The governing body acts at all times in accordance with the requirements laid down in Acts of Parliament, statutory regulations and the school’s articles of Government.
- The governing body acts at all times fairly, without prejudice, and in accordance with the principles laid down by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (“Nolan Committee”).

Collective Responsibility

- The governing body is a corporate entity and acts as a group. No one category of governor has any right to act individually, except when the governing body has given delegated authority to do so (or when the Chair/Chairman of Governors has to take urgent action).
- The strength of a governing body lies in the talents and commitment of its members, and in their ability to work together as a team for the good of the school. Every governor has an equal right to participate and to state his or her views. No governor has the right to expect preferential treatment because of his or her status on this or any other body or group.
- Governors are elected or appointed by different groups – including Foundation, parents, teachers and support staff. Although elected or chosen by other groups each governor has a responsibility to make up his/her own mind about issues that are considered by the governing body. Once decisions are made by the governing body, individual governors are bound by them and are expected to support and abide by them.
- In situations where a governor feels their ability to be impartial is challenged by being a member of another body (such as an elected member or member of staff) they will discuss this with the whole governing body

and be clear with the governing body what links they will make between the two bodies.

- Governors should recognise and support the headteacher with his/her responsibilities for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and for advising on and implementing the governing body's strategic framework.
- Governors have a responsibility to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as they have responsibility for staff, will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer. Concerns about individual members of staff will be dealt with through the head teacher and not aired publicly.
- Governors have a duty to get to know the school and respond positively where possible to opportunities to involve themselves in school activities.

Conduct

- Governors will treat each other with respect and courtesy and will conduct themselves at all times in manner that will not bring the school into disrepute.
- All governors will encourage the open expression of views at all our meetings, but we accept collective responsibility for the decisions that are made by the governing body or its committees. This includes times when we may individually disagree with the decision but the majority of the governing body support it.
- Governors will only speak outside of the meetings on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so. We accept that this is with the exception of the Chair who we accept sometimes has to do this on behalf of the governing body but will then report back to the governing body after the event.
- Governors will not become involved in individual complaints or disagreements that parents/carers have with the school except where authorised by the governing body to do so (e.g. when asked to investigate a parental complaint). If anyone approaches us with a complaint we will advise them to contact the school and follow the Complaints Procedure that has been adopted by the governing body.

- In discharging our responsibilities and actions as governors will always be mindful of the responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the school and as governors our actions will be seen as representing the whole governing body of the school.

Confidentiality

- The governing body decides if an item for discussion is confidential and all governors are expected to abide by that decision. Individual governors are expected to respect that confidentiality and not disclose information deemed as confidential in any other forum.
- All reports to the governing body and its committees are public documents after the meeting has considered them and must be available at the school to anyone wishing to view them unless the governing body decides they are confidential.
- All governors regardless of whether they hold another office (such as an elected member or member of staff) will still respect that confidentiality.