



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF ALBAN CITY SCHOOL

The **Head Teacher** is responsible for the day to day management of the school, the implementation of policy and the operation of the curriculum. **Governors** have a responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review, the strategic policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates.

- The joint, main aim of the school is to raise the educational achievement of all its pupils.
- The governing body will contribute most effectively to this aim by focusing on its three roles:
 - To provide a strategic view of where the school is heading
 - To act as a critical friend by providing support and advice to the school
 - To hold the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of the education it provides
- All governors have equal status. Although governors are appointed and elected by different groups, their central concern is the welfare of the school as a whole.
- Governors have a general duty to act fairly and without prejudice at all times.
- In so far as they have, or share, responsibility for the employment of staff, governors should fulfil all reasonable expectations of a good employer.
- Governors do not act alone but as members of a corporate team. Individual governors have power only when it is designated specifically to them by the whole governing body.

COMMITMENT

- Being a governor involves significant amounts of time and energy. Careful regard should be paid to this when agreeing to serve or to continue to serve on the governing body of a school.
- All governors should involve themselves actively in the work of the governing body and accept a fair share of the responsibilities, including service on committees.
- Regular attendance at meetings of both the full governing body and committees is **essential**.
- Governors should know the school well and take opportunities to visit it and become involved in school activities. They are linked to year groups and are encouraged to make regular, pre-planned visit to the school
- Governors should strive to operate as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- Governors should develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff, parents, the DfE and their local community.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

- Governors are more than welcome to visit the school because they need to have the opportunity to see governors' policies in action and to understand how the school works. However, this must be done by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.
- In order to avoid misunderstandings arising, the governing body will draw up its own policy on governor visits. They are as follows:
- All governors should visit the school, preferably once each term by prior arrangement (while the school is small, this might not be appropriate).
- The total number of visits per term should be agreed in advance with the Head Teacher. Too many visits can be disruptive to pupils' learning.
- The date and timing of a visit should be arranged in advance with the Head Teacher and other staff involved.
- Visits should have a clear focus, linked to a school policy, a curriculum area or an aspect of the school development plan.
- If a governor is going to spend time in a classroom, this should be discussed with the class teacher so that both are clear how long the governor is coming for, what they are going to look at and what they are going to do.
- Governors should understand that their visits do not replace professional inspections or the monitoring role of the headteacher. Governors should not make judgements about the effectiveness of the teaching that they see.
- If governors are concerned about any aspects of what they have seen this should be passed to the Head Teacher.
- After the visit, the governor should report back to the governing body. The school has a policy in place which outlines how visits should be undertaken and a pro-forma report sheet is also available.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Governors must observe complete confidentiality **AT ALL TIMES**, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff, pupils or parents.
- Whilst governors are entitled to disclose the decisions made by the governing body, unless it was agreed as a confidential item by the governing body, governors **are not** entitled to identify the views expressed by individual named governors.
- Governors should exercise the highest degree of prudence when discussion of potentially contentious issues arises outside the governing body.

CONDUCT

- Governors should express their views openly within meetings but **accept collective** responsibility for all decisions.
- Governors should only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when they have been specifically asked to do so.
- All visits to school should be undertaken within a framework which has been established by the governing body and agreed with the Headteacher.
- In responding to criticism or complaints relating to the school, governors should refer to the school's 'Complaints Procedure' for the correct procedure to be followed and advise the complainant accordingly.
- Governors **have a responsibility** to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the school. Their actions within the school community should reflect this.
- Any pecuniary interest that a governor may have in connection with the governing body's business must be recorded in the register of pecuniary interests.
- Where an interest is declared, the governor must leave the meeting while the item is under discussion.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Governor training and development is important. It benefits the school and individual governors, and can help to develop effective teamwork.
- Governors are encouraged to undertake training to further their individual interests within the governing body and the work of the governing body as a whole.

MEETINGS

- Individual governors do not have any authority in school.
- ***It is the collective decisions of all the governors together that carry authority.***

MEETINGS CHARTER

As a governor I expect:

- People to attend regularly and be punctual;
- An agenda and relevant documents to reach me at least seven days before the meeting;
- An agenda that makes clear the purpose of each item;
- A Chair who keeps to the agenda, paces the meeting so that time is given to each matter in proportion to its importance, draws on all members for contributions and keeps discussions to the point;
- My contribution to be heard and others to contribute to the discussion;
- The decision making process to be quite clear;
- Governors to work together and not to be stubbornly partisan;
- Governors to take collective responsibility for decisions;
- Minutes that summarise views succinctly, record decisions accurately and are made available, in draft form, soon after each meeting.
- Mobile phones and/or tablet devices should be switched to silent unless otherwise agreed in advance with the committee or GB Chair.
- If a governor does not attend either committee meetings or FGBs for three meetings and does not give a reasonable apology for not doing so, then they should be deemed to be removed from the panel

Others can expect me to:

- Attend regularly and be punctual;
- Read the agenda, minutes and other papers before the meeting and note items I want to say something about;
- Bring my papers to the meeting;
- Make relevant and positive contributions;
- Listen to and consider what other people want to say;
- Accept my share of collective responsibility, even for those decisions that I do not personally agree with.