



# Newall Green Primary School

*Aiming High To Reach Our Goals*

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## 1. Local Governing Body – Code of Conduct

### 1.1. Governors accept the following principles

We understand the purpose of the Local Governing Body (LGB) and the role of the Principal as set out in the Trust's *Governors Handbook*.

We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Local Governing Body or Board of Directors has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the Local Governing Body or Board of Directors when we have been specifically authorised to do so.

We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice.

We will encourage open governance and will act appropriately.

We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Local Governing Body or Board of Directors. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the Governing Body meeting.

We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.

We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our academy. Our actions within the academy and the local community will reflect this.

In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the Academy we will follow the procedures established by the Trust

We are committed to actively supporting and challenging the Principal and the Trust.

### 1.2. Commitment

We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves commitment, time and energy.

We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the Local Governing Body and accept our fair share of responsibilities.

We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance in full why we are unable to.

We will get to know the Academy well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in academy activities.

Our visits to Academy will be arranged in advance with the staff and agreed with the Principal.

We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training

We accept that in the interests of open government, our names, terms of office, roles on the governing body, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.

### **1.3. Relationships**

We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively prompted.

We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other Members.

We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.

We are prepared to answer queries from other overnors in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns and direction expressed, and we will acknowledge the time, effort and skills that have been committed to the delegated function by those involved.

We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Principal, staff and parents, the Trust, the local authority (as appropriate) and other relevant agencies and the community.

### **1.4. Confidentiality**

We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or students, both inside and outside Academy.

We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding Academy business arise outside a Local Governing Body meeting.

We will not reveal the details of any Local Governing Body vote.

### **1.5. Conflicts of Interest**

We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the Local Governing Body's business in the Register of Business Interests. We accept that the Register of Business Interests may be published on the school's website.

We will declare any pecuniary interest, or a personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest, in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.

We will act in the best interests of the Academy as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the governing board.

### **1.6. Breach of this Code of Conduct**

If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair and the Chair will investigate; the Local Governing Body should only use suspension in consultation with the Trust and as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.

Should it be the chair that we believe has breached this code, another governor, such as the vice chair will investigate.

## 2. The Seven Principles of Public Life

(Originally published by the Nolan Committee: The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations)..

### **Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act 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 seek to 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 to the public for their actions and should 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.

### **Honesty**

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private 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.

The LGB governors of \_\_\_\_\_ Academy adopted this Code of Conduct  
on \_\_\_\_\_ [DATE] \_\_\_\_\_

LGB governors will sign the Code at the first Local Governing Body meeting of each academy year.

### 3. Undertaking:

As a member of the Local Governing Body of Newall Green Primary School

I will always have the well-being of the children and the reputation of the Academy at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the academy and the Trust, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the academy, the Local Governing Body, the Board of Directors, the Principal or staff, and I support the Trust's published Code of Conduct for Governors.

Name (please print)	
Signature:	
Date:	

**Failure to sign, or uphold this undertaking will result in disqualification as an LGB governor from a Trust Academy.**