

Dalmain Primary School - Code of Conduct for Governors

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from governors in order for the governing body to properly carry out its work within the school and the community.

The purpose of the governing body

The governing body is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well being.

The governing body:

- Sets the strategic direction of the school by:
 - Setting the values, aims and objectives for the school
 - Agreeing the policy framework for achieving those aims and objectives
 - Setting challenging goals and targets
 - Agreeing the school improvement strategy which includes approving the budget and agreeing the staffing structure
- Challenges and supports the school by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating:
 - The implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework
 - Progress towards targets
 - The implementation and effectiveness of the school improvement strategy
 - The budget and the staffing structure
- Ensures accountability by:
 - signing off the school's own self-evaluation report
 - responding to Ofsted reports when necessary
 - holding the headteacher to account for the performance of the school
 - ensuring parents, carers and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
 - making available information to the community
- Appoints and conducts the appraisal of the headteacher who will deliver the aims (through the day to day management of the school, implementation of the agreed policy framework and school improvement strategy, and delivery of the curriculum) and report appropriately to the governing body.

For governing bodies to carry out their role effectively, governors must be:

- Prepared and equipped to take their responsibilities seriously;
- Acknowledged as the accountable body by the lead professionals;
- Supported by the appropriate authorities in that task; and
- Willing and able to monitor and review their own performance.

The role of a governor

In law the governing body is a corporate body, which means:

- no governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full governing body;
- all governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made, and
- although appointed through different routes (i.e. parents, staff, Local Authority community, foundation), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.

The Governing body accepts the following principles and procedures: -

General

- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect members of the school community and other schools.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly and for the full time and send apologies in advance with reasons when we are unable to do so. The governing body reserves the right to remove governors who fail to attend a full Governing Body meeting for six months without sending apologies (or if apologies were not accepted).
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups and undertake at least 2 visits per year to the school.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- 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.
- We also accept that information relating to governors will be collected and logged on the Department for Education's national database for governors (Edubase).

Relationships

- We will continue to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other governors.
- We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We will continue to develop effective working relationships with our head teacher, staff, parents, carers, the Local Authority, other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe confidentiality regarding proceedings of the governing body in meetings and from our visits to school as governors.

- We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the governing body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the governing body.

Conduct

- We will ensure that our relationship with the school is conducted in a proper and ethical manner to avoid compromising our standing as a governor.
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- We will encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means we will not speak out against decisions, in public or private, outside the governing body.
- We will abide by the agreed protocol for meetings.
- We will observe the same principles of courtesy, confidentiality and collective responsibility when communicating online as we would in other forms of interaction.
- We will only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.
- Our visits to school will be undertaken within the framework established by the governing body, in agreement with the head teacher and staff.
- In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school.

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people we are connected with) that we have in connection with the governing body's business in the Register of Interests, and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time. We accept that the Register of Interests will be published on the school's website.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.

Suspension and Removal

- If the need arises to use the sanction of suspending a governor, we will do so by following the Procedures Regulations so as to ensure a fair and objective process.
- We recognise that removing a governor from office is a last resort, and that it is the appointing bodies which have the power to remove those they appoint.
- If the need arises to use the sanction of removing a governor, we will do so by following the Constitution Regulations so as to ensure a fair and objective process.

The Governing Body of Dalmain Primary School adopted this code of practice on

13 October 2017

Governors will sign the Code when first appointed and if/when their terms of office are renewed.

Undertaking:

As a member of the Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the children and the reputation of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or staff.

Signed Date:

Governing Body Meetings Protocol

We will:

- wherever possible, inform the chair or clerk before the meeting if we want to place an item on the agenda;
- read all relevant papers before the meeting;
- arrive on time for the start of the meeting;
- switch mobile phones off or to silent;
- make contributions through the chair;
- avoid repeating points that have already been made or digressing from the topic under discussion;
- avoid having “side conversations”;
- be aware that all governors should have the opportunity to contribute and that they may be prevented from doing so if individuals dominate the discussion;
- be polite and courteous and listen to others;
- respect the views of others, verbally and non-verbally;
- be aware of the constraints of time;
- make a note of any tasks we agree at the meeting to undertake;
- exercise extreme caution when naming individuals and be aware of the implications for grievances/complaints/disciplinary and other panel hearings;
- only raise items under the “urgent business” agenda item that are urgent;
- take collective responsibility for decisions of the governing body, whatever our personal opinion may be.