

Earlsfield Primary School



Governing Body Code of Conduct

This code sets out the broad principles under which the governing body and individual governors will operate. All members of the governing body accept the principles and procedures set out below.

General

1. We, the governing body, have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans, procedures and targets within which the school operates.
2. We recognise that our headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the school and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.
3. We will act as critical friends to the school, evaluating performance and offering constructive advice. We will ask challenging questions of the head and other staff and hold the school to account for the quality of education it provides.
4. We accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed by different groups such as parents, staff and the local authority, our overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole.
5. We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so.
6. We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all the legal expectations as, or on behalf of, the employer.
7. We will encourage open government and as far as is reasonable will make documents and minutes available to the public.

8. We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the local community, including other schools.

Commitment

9. We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
10. We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body, attend meetings regularly and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
11. We will get to know the school well by visiting and responding to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
12. We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development and complete relevant training.
13. We will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the governing body.

Relationships

14. We will strive to work as a team and work together constructively.
15. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority and the community.

Confidentiality

16. We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the governing body. We will not discuss, outside the meeting, matters concerning individual staff, parents, pupils or governors.
17. We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the governing body.

Conduct

18. We will take all decisions in the interests of the school and community we serve. We hold office for the benefit of all children at the school and will not seek to gain financial or other benefits for ourselves, family or friends.

19. We will not place ourselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence us in the performance of our official duties.
20. 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.
21. We will only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
22. In responding to criticism or complaints about the school we will follow the procedures set out in the complaints procedure.
23. Our visits to school will be agreed in advance with the headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body.
24. We will act at all times with honesty and integrity and be ready to explain our actions and decisions to staff, pupils, parents and anyone with a legitimate interest in our school subject to our duty of confidentiality.
25. In carrying out our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school.

Adopted by Earlsfield Primary School Governing Body, February 2011