

Sir Roger Manwood's School



Declaration

Governor Declaration

September 2026

Code of Conduct for Governors

Based on NGA Model Code of Conduct, 2017 version.

The governing board has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, values, and objectives for the school(s)/trust
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school and progress towards agreed targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

As individuals on the board we agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the executive leaders.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing board meeting.
- We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- We will encourage open governance and will act appropriately.
- 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 school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by the governing board.
- We will actively support and challenge the executive leaders
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation;
- We will respect the role of the executive leaders and their responsibility for the day to day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements;
- We agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the governing board as set out by the relevant governing documents and law
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role we will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views;
- when communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) we will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a member, governor or committee observer involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will visit the school, with all visits arranged in advance with the Headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as a member, governor or committee observer.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
- In the interests of transparency, we accept that information relating to members and governors will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Edubase) and at Companies House.

Relationships

- We will strive 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 members, governors, the clerk to the governing board and school staff both in and outside of meetings.
- 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 board members in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns 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 executive leaders, staff and parents, the trust, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside school.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding School's business arise outside a governing board meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.

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 board's business in the Register of Business 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 Business 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.
- We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the governing board.

Ceasing to be a member, governor or committee observer

- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after someone leaves office.

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 governing board will only use suspension/removal 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 governing board member, such as the vice chair, will investigate.

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.

Integrity - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Disqualification from being a Trustee

Since 1 August 2018, a person will be automatically disqualified from acting as a trustee if:

1. They have an **unspent** conviction for any of the following
 - a) an offence involving **deception or dishonesty**
 - b) a **terrorism** offence
 - a. to which Part 4 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 applies
 - b. under sections 13 or 19 of the Terrorism Act 2000
 - c) a **money laundering** offence within the meaning of section 415 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
 - d) a **bribery** offence under sections 1, 2, 6 or 7 of the Bribery Act 2010
 - e) an offence of **contravening a Commission Order or Direction** under section 77 of the Charities Act 2011
 - f) an offence of **misconduct in public office, perjury or perverting the course of justice** yes/no
 - g) In relation to the above offences, an offence of: attempt, conspiracy, or incitement to commit the offence; aiding, or abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence; or, under Part 2 of the Serious Crime Act 2007(encouraging or assisting) in relation to the offence
2. They are **on the sex offenders register** (ie. subject to notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)
3. They have an unspent sanction for **contempt of court** for making, or causing to be made, a false statement or for making, or causing to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth
4. They have been found guilty of **disobedience to an order or direction of the Commission** under section 336(1) of the Charities Act 2011.
5. They are a **designated person** for the purposes of Part 1 of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010, or the Al Qaida (Asset Freezing) Regulations 2011.
6. They have **previously been removed as an officer, agent or employee of a charity** by the Charity Commission, the Scottish charity regulator, or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement
7. They have **previously been removed as a trustee** of a charity by the Charity Commission, the Scottish charity regulator, or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement
8. They have been **removed from management or control of anybody** under section s34(5)(e) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (**Scotland**) Act 2005 (or earlier legislation)
9. They are **disqualified from being a company director**, or have given a disqualification undertaking, and leave has not been granted (as described in section 180 of the Charities Act) for them to act as director of the charity
10. They are **currently declared bankrupt** (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order)

11. They **have an individual voluntary arrangement** (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors
12. They are **subject to** a moratorium period under **a debt relief order**, or a debt relief restrictions order, or an interim order
13. They are subject to an order made under s.429(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986. (**Failure to pay under a County Court Administration Order.**)

GOVERNOR DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that:

- I am not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee
- I have not been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (or any such conviction is legally regarded as spent)
- I have not been involved in tax fraud
- I am not an undischarged bankrupt
- I have not made compositions or arrangements with my creditors from which I have not been discharged
- I have not been removed from serving as a charity trustee, or been stopped from acting in a management position within my charity
- I have not been disqualified from serving as a Company Director
- I will at all times see to ensure the charity's funds, and charity tax reliefs received by this organisation, are used only for charitable purposes
- I have read, and agree to abide by, the Code of Conduct for Governors
 - **Selflessness** - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
 - **Integrity** - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
 - **Objectivity** - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
 - **Accountability** - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
 - **Openness** - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
 - **Honesty** – Holders of public office should be truthful.
 - **Leadership** – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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