



Code of Conduct for Members of the Local Governing Body

Code of Conduct for the Local Governing Bodies (LGB) within the Special Partnership Trust.

It is important that confidence in the good governance and probity of the SPT is maintained. In order to assist the Board of Directors ['Board'] of the SPT to achieve this, each Academy within the Trust has adopted this code of conduct for all members of the Local Governing Body (LGB).

The LGB is responsible to the Board for the conduct of the Academy and for promoting high standards. The LGB aims to ensure that students and pupils are attending a successful school, which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

The LGB is responsible to the Board for its actions and is expected to follow the expectations of members of the LGB as laid down by the Board. These expectations mirror those which apply to Directors of the Trust, as follows:

The Academy:

- aims to establish an LGB that is competent, independent and diverse that promotes best practice in governance
- aims to make sure that its governors promote and uphold high standards of conduct and probity and ethics
- requires its governors to act in accordance with the Trust's articles of association (the articles) and associated Scheme of Delegation and the code

Application of the code

This code applies to members of the LGB when exercising any of the board's powers delegated to them under the articles.

By accepting appointment to the LGB, each governor agrees to accept the provisions of this code.

We agree to abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

The SPT shall use The Good Governance Standard for Public Services as a guide to help the LGB achieve good governance but also as a tool to regularly assess the strengths and weaknesses of the academies governance practice and improve it.

The Good Governance Standard for Public Services

The standard prepared by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services in 2005 comprises six core principles of good governance, each with its supporting principles. Set out below is an extract of these core principles.

Good governance means focusing on SPTs purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users.

We will:

- Be clear about the Academy's purpose and its intended outcomes for citizens and pupils
- Make sure that pupils receive a high quality education
- Make sure that taxpayers receive value for money

Good governance means performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles.

We will:

- Be clear about the functions of the LGB
- Be clear about the responsibilities of non-executives and the executive, and making sure that those responsibilities are carried out
- Be clear about relationships between governors and the public

Good governance means promoting values for the SPT and demonstrating the values of good governance through behavior.

We will:

- Put organisational values into practice
- Behave in ways that uphold and exemplify effective governance

Good governance means taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk.

We will:

- Be rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken
- Have and use good quality information, advice and support
- Make sure that an effective risk management system is in operation

Good governance means developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective.

We will:

- Make sure that appointed and elected governors have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well
- Develop the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluate their performance, as individuals and as a group
- Strike a balance, in the membership of the board, between continuity and renewal

Good governance means engaging stakeholders and making accountability real

We will:

- Understand formal and informal accountability relationships
- Take an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public
- Take an active and planned approach to responsibility to staff
- Engage effectively with institutions

Duties and responsibilities

Members of the LGB shall:

- fulfill their responsibilities and duties as a governor of the Academy in good faith and:
 - uphold the ethos of the Academy
 - act in the best interests of the Academy
 - secure the proper and effective use of the Academies property
 - act personally in all respects
 - act within the scope of any authority given to them by the LGB by law, by regulations or by the Scheme of Delegation
 - use the reasonable skill and care when making decisions
- act in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation at all times
- be committed to the SPT's values and objectives (including equal opportunities), to contribute to and share responsibility for the LGB's decisions, to read LGB papers and to attend meetings, training sessions and other relevant events
- declare all interests they have as required by the Scheme of Delegation and the general law and to comply with any rules requiring withdrawal from a meeting where this is required because of an interest
- respect the confidentiality of information that they may have access to as a member of the LGB and keep confidential the affairs of the LGB
- inform the clerk to the LGB as soon as possible should any changes to their circumstances occur during their term as a member of the LGB, including if:
 - there are any changes to the interests which have been declared
 - they become, or cease to be, a company director, board member or trustee of another company or charity
 - their occupation changes
 - they move house
 - they become employed by the SPT

Breaches of the code

Every member of the LGB is under a duty to report any breach of this code or any grounds for believing that a breach of the code has occurred to the Chair of the LGB (and if the allegation is about the Chair, to the Vice-Chair).

Failing to report a breach of the code is itself a breach of this code.

Any breach of this code will be treated extremely seriously by both the LGB and the Board and may result in suspension or removal from the LGB.

In the event of a breach of this code each governor agrees to participate fully in any investigations procedure instigated by the LGB and/or the Board to abide by any sanction that may be imposed on them by the LGB for such breach.

Review

The Board will be responsible for ensuring that this code of conduct is kept under review.

Signed (Governor):

Date: