

Bridge Multi-Academy Trust

Governor Code of Conduct

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1. Application of this Code

1.1 This Code applies to all governors of the Trust when exercising any of the powers delegated to them by the Board.

1.2 By accepting appointment to their LGB, each governor agrees to accept the provisions of this Code together with the Trust's Articles of Association.

1.3 Governors will sign the Code on appointment and then annually.

1.4 The Trust Secretary will be responsible for ensuring that this Code is reviewed annually.

2. Corporate governance responsibilities

The Local Governing Body is a corporate body which means:

- No governor can act individually, except when the LGB, a Trustee or the Board has given them delegated authority to do so
- All governors accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the LGB and will not speak against majority decisions outside LGB meetings
- The overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the Trust and the schools as a whole regardless of how they were appointed

3. The Responsibilities of a governor

3.1 Commitment

- We are aware of and will comply with the Nolan *Seven Principles of Public Life* (Appendix A) and the *Good Governance Standards for Public Life* (Appendix B)
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the Trust and their schools. Our actions within the Trust's schools, the local community and when using social media and email will reflect this
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting any Trust school we will follow the procedures established by the Trust Board
- We will support the Chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times

3.2 Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters or papers are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside of school
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding Trust or school business arise outside any Trust or LGB meeting
- Official statements to the media should go through the Chair of the Trust or the Chief Executive

- We will not reveal the details of any LGB vote
- We will ensure all confidential papers and emails are held and disposed of appropriately

3.3 Conflicts of Interest

- We will follow the principles and procedures laid out in the Trust’s Conflicts of Interest policy
- We will act in the best interests of the Trust

3.4 Eligibility and change of circumstances

- We agree to undergo an enhanced disclosure DBS Check. If it is deemed that any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings which are disclosed conflict with our role as a governor of a Trust school we will resign from the LGB immediately.
- We will inform the Clerk to the LGB as soon as possible should any changes to our circumstances occur during our term as a governor, including if:
 - there are any changes to the interests which have been declared
 - we become, or cease to be, a company director, board member or trustee of another company or charity
 - we change address

4. Breach of this Code

4.1 Every governor 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 Chair of Trustees).

4.2 Failing to report a breach of the Code is itself a breach of this Code.

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

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

The Board of the Bridge Multi-Academy Trust adopted this Code of Conduct on 19 March 2018.

Undertaking:

I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. As a member of the Local Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the children and the reputation of the Trust and their schools at heart.

I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the Trust and each school, publicly supporting their aims, values and ethos.

I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the Trust, any Trust school, the Local Governing Body, or any Trust employee.

Signed:

Printed name:

Date:

Appendix A: The Seven Principles of Public Life

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 for their decisions and actions to the public and must 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.

Appendix B: 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.

By accepting appointment to the board, each director agrees to accept the provisions of this Code.

Good governance means focusing on the organisation's purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users. We will:

- be clear about the Trust'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 board
- 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 directors and the public

Good governance means promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour. 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 directors 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 institutional stakeholders