



Mary of the Cross Federation Code of Conduct for Governors

This Code is not a definitive statement of responsibilities but sets out the common understanding of the broad principles by which governors, supported by the senior management team, will operate:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The governors of Mary of the Cross Federation accept the following principles:

- Governors and the senior management teams are in accord with their commitment to uphold the aims of the schools and college and the actions of governors must reflect this.
- Governors have responsibility and accountability for being strategic; they will determine and actively monitor the policies of the schools/college and shall annually review all statutory policies.
- Governors acknowledge that the day-to-day management of the schools/college and implementation of plans and policies approved by the governing body is the responsibility of the head teachers and senior management teams.
- Governors and staff should share mutual respect and staff must feel that their views are valued by governors.

- Governors should develop good working relationships with the head teachers, staff, parents, carers, CAST, the LA (Local Authority) and other agencies ensuring the views of stakeholders are obtained whenever possible.
- Governors are appointed or elected by different groups but all are equal and should share the same concern for the welfare of the school as a whole.
- Governors should be objective and feel able to raise issues in a constructive manner; their role is to question and support in equal measure.
- Governors are free to express their own views within meetings and acknowledge that differences of opinion may arise. However, when a majority decision is made all governors must accept the collective responsibility for the decision.
- Governors are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- Only those items listed on the agenda will be discussed at the meeting. Governors may ask the chair to include an item on the next agenda.
- Confidentiality is expected. However, it should be noted that all recorded decisions will enter the public domain except for those discussed under Part II procedures which will remain confidential.
- It is essential that governors take time to prepare for a meeting and read all necessary papers. If a governor is unable to attend he/she must submit apologies to the clerk.
- It is imperative that governors declare openly and immediately any personal conflict of interest arising from a matter to be discussed by the governing body.
- It is important that governors review their continued professional development seeking to enhance their effectiveness as a governor by attending training courses to increase knowledge and benefit from best practice.
- Governors should endeavour to take an active role in supporting and visiting schools/college whenever possible and should strive where possible to engage with the wider community.
- Governors acknowledge that whilst e-mail offers an efficient facility to circulate agendas and minutes, the use of e mails, sent to multiple addresses, to engage discussion and seek views should not be encouraged. Any governor who has a concern about a process should speak to the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors who will take the appropriate action. All governing body business must be conducted through the official meeting forum.

- If parent governors are approached by other parents they should act as a signposting service only – directing them in the first instance to the class teacher or relevant Headteacher. The governor should inform the headteacher of their action and must be prepared to name the parent who has approached them. It is not the role of governors to intervene in concerns because they may be required to act if the situation progresses to a complaint.
- Information regarding governors and associate members will be published online regarding the structure and remit of the governing body and any committees, and the full names of the chair of each;
 - for each governor who has served at any point over the past 12 months:
 - their full names, date of appointment, term of office, date they stepped down (where applicable), who appointed them (in accordance with the governing body's instrument of government),
 - relevant business and pecuniary interests (as recorded in the register of interests) including:
 - governance roles in other educational institutions;
 - any material interests arising from relationships between governors or relationships between governors and school staff (including spouses, partners and close relatives); and
 - their attendance record at governing body and committee meetings over the last academic year.
- Governors will use social networking sites responsibly and ensure that neither our personal/professional reputation or the school's reputation is compromised by inappropriate postings.

Signed.....

Date.....