

Grove Street Primary School Governing Body Code of Conduct



Where Learners Grow

**Adopted by the governing board of Grove Street Primary School on
19th September 2018.**

Core Strategic Functions of Grove Street Primary School Governing Body

Establishing the strategic direction by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the lead Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensuring financial probity by:

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

As individuals on the Governing Body of Grove Street Primary School we agree to be mindful that in exercising all our functions we must *'act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties. This is required in maintained schools by legislation 12. 5'*. Governance Handbook November 2015 p34

We will be led by the Seven Principles of Public Life:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Role & Responsibilities

We understand:

- the purpose of the board and the role of the Headteacher
- 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 accept:

- 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

- 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 will:

- Encourage open government and will act appropriately.
- Consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools
- Always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school/group of schools. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this
- Actively support and challenge the Headteacher
- Follow the procedures established by the governing body when responding to criticism or complaints

Commitment

We accept that:

- Being a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy
- In the interests of open government, 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 information relating to Grove Street Primary School governors will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors

We will:

- Involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups
- Make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to
- Get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities
- Visit the school, with all visits arranged in advance with the Headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board
- Consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training

Relationships

We will:

- Strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted
- Express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other governors
- Support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times
- Be 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
- Seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff and parents, 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
- Exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school/trust business arise outside a governing board meeting

We will not

- Reveal the details of any governing board vote

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/trust's website
- Declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- 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

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.