

Beech Hyde School Governing Body: Code of Practice

As the Governing Body of Beech Hyde School we have three core functions:

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

In the way we fulfil these core functions and the manner in which we conduct ourselves we have a responsibility to promote and develop the reputation of Beech Hyde School. This Code sets out broad principles by which our Governing Body will operate.

Commitment

Office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy in preparing for and attending meetings as well as getting to know the school.

- We will attend and contribute to FGB and committee meetings having read all papers. We will explain in advance the reason for any absence.
- We will accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees as appropriate.
- We undertake to visit the school at least once a term and make every effort to involve ourselves in appropriate school activities
- We will keep our training and development needs under review and attend at least two trainings each year.

Responsibilities

- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the GB. We will only speak on behalf of the governing body if we have been authorised to do so.
- We will act fairly and without prejudice at all times.
- We will encourage open governance.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect pupils, staff, the community and other schools.

Relationships

- We will promote courteous and constructive working relationships amongst ourselves and with staff, parents and other stakeholders.
- We will answer queries from other governors in relation to delegated functions.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when appropriate both inside and outside school.
- We will exercise prudence when discussing school business outside a governing body meeting.

Conflicts of interest

- We will declare any conflict of interest at the start of any meeting.
- We will always act in the best interests of the school as a whole.

Further Guidance

School Governance

Detailed guidance on most matters of school governance can be found in the Department for Education Governance Handbook. It includes sections on governors' roles and functions, legal duties and sources of support. This is accessible online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

The Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)

These form the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders. In summary they are:

- **Selflessness**

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or their friends.

- **Integrity**

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that may 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 their decisions and the 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.

More details are accessible online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>