



South Otterington Church of England Primary School **Governing Body Code of Practice**

At a meeting of the South Otterington Church of England Primary School Governing Body, held on the 2nd December 2014, the principles and procedures embodied within this Code of Practice were formally renewed having originally been adopted in 2011.

General

- we have corporate responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the strategic policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates;
- we recognise that the headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the school and the implementation of the curriculum;
- we accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed by different groups (e.g. parents, staff, LA) our overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole;
- we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so;
- we have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for the employment of staff, we will fulfil all that is reasonably expected of a good employer;
- we will encourage open government and should be seen to be doing so;
- we will consider carefully how our decisions may affect other schools and the community served by our school.

Commitment

- we acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy both in and out of school;
- we will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body, attend regularly, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups;
- we will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities;
- we will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development.

Relationships

- we will strive to work as a team;
- we will seek to develop effective working relationships with the head, staff, parents, the LA and other relevant agencies including the Diocesan Authorities, and the community.

Confidentiality

- we will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the governing body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or pupils;
- as a matter of trust we will not discuss the views of fellow governors with members of the public outside our meetings;
- we will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the governing body.

Conduct

- we will encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents;
- we will not speak or act on behalf of the governing body unless we have been specially authorised by it to do so;
- in making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body;
- our visits to the school will be undertaken within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher;
- in discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the aims, values, ethos and reputation of our school;
- we will abide by The Nolan Principles of Public Life (attached).

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

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.

These principles apply to all aspects of public life. The Committee has set them out here for the benefit of all who serve the public in any way.