

Code of Practice for Local Monitoring Governors



All Local Monitoring Governors agree to faithfully abide by this Code of Practice.

We agree to abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

As individual Local Monitoring Governors, we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our responsibilities as set out in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
2. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our schools.
3. We agree to adhere to school and Trust policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
4. We will work collectively for the benefit of the schools and Trust.
5. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
6. We will consider how our decisions may affect the schools and our local communities.
7. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
8. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils or students at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
9. We will only speak or act on behalf of the Trust if we have the authority to do so.
10. We will fulfil our responsibilities and act fairly and without prejudice.
11. We will strive to uphold the schools' and the Trust's reputation in our private communications, including on social media.
12. We will not discriminate against anyone and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the Local Monitoring Committee, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on sub-committees or working groups where required.
2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, and ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
4. We will get to know the schools well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
5. We will visit the schools and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and committee protocol.
6. When visiting the schools in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
7. We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Build and maintain relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities.
2. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with Board and Committee members and staff both inside and outside meetings.
3. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each Committee member's contributions are valued equally.
4. We will support the Chair in their role of leading the committee and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
2. We will not reveal the details of any committee vote.
3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the Trust's business, and these will be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.
2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the Trust's website.
5. We will act in the best interests of the Trust as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the Local Monitoring Committee, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the Trust website.
7. We accept that information relating to Committee members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database, Get Information About Schools (GIAS), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

Adopted by: [Name]

on [date]

Signed:

The Local Monitoring Committees agree that this code of practice will be reviewed annually, upon significant changes to the law and policy or as needed and it will be endorsed by the full Local Monitoring Committee.
