

Forest Bridge School

Chair of Governors: Graham Sadd



Forest Bridge School

Governors Code of Conduct

- I recognise that the headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policies, and curriculum and the day-to-day management of the school.
- I am aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life: see Appendix
- I accept that I have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Governing Body has given me delegated authority to do so, and therefore I will only speak on behalf of the Governing Body when I have been specifically authorised to do so.
- I have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as I have responsibility for staff, I will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- I accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Governing Body. I will not speak against majority decisions outside the Governing Body meeting.
- I will consider carefully how decisions of the governing body may affect the community and other schools.
- I will always be mindful of my responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the School. My actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- I will not use social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) to air my views of the school.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school I will follow the procedures established by the Governing Body.

Commitment

- I acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy; and a requirement to be flexible regarding timings of meetings.
- I acknowledge that I should involve myself actively in the work of the Governing Body and be willing to carry out my fair share of responsibilities including serving on committees and working parties and areas of special responsibility.
- I acknowledge that I will be expected to attend meetings of the Governing Body, committees and working groups, and that persistent non-attendance at Governing Body can lead to disqualification.
- I will ensure that I attend meetings promptly and for the full duration.



Forest Bridge School

Chair of Governors: Graham Sadd

- I will ensure that I am prepared for meetings by reading all papers beforehand.
- I will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve myself in school activities.
- My visits to school will be arranged in advance with the staff, the purpose will be made clear i.e. subject, policy review, School Development Plan, and the visit undertaken within the framework established by the Governing Body and agreed with the Headteacher. A brief report of the visit will be produced and shared with relevant committee and staff within 4 weeks of visit.
- Whilst in school during operational hours, I will be clearly identified by either a visitor or governor lanyard and I will always sign in using the governor's visitor book.
- I will avoid direct criticism of teaching staff. Any concerns will be raised with the Chair of Governors and Headteacher.
- I am committed to supporting and challenging the headteacher.

Relationships

- I will strive to work as part of a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- I will listen to, and express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all my communications with other governors.
- I will support the chair in his/her role of ensuring appropriate conduct at all times.
- I am prepared to answer queries from other governors in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns expressed, and I will acknowledge the time, effort and skills that have been committed to the delegated function by those involved.
- I will seek to develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

- I acknowledge that decisions reached at Governing Body meetings are normally made public through minutes and reports, but that governors must ensure confidentiality, when required, in respect of the discussions on which the decisions were based.
- I will observe complete confidentiality in all matters discussed at Governing Body meetings and understand that failure to comply can lead to disciplinary action.
- I will exercise the highest degree of caution when involved in sensitive issues arising outside the governing body which may have an impact on the work of the Governing Body or the operation of the school.
- I will not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.

Conflicts of interest

- I will record any pecuniary or other business interest that I have in connection with the Governing Body's business in the Register of Business Interests.
- I will declare any pecuniary interest - or a personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest - in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.



Forest Bridge School

Chair of Governors: Graham Sadd

Breach of this code of conduct

- If I believe this code has been breached, I will raise this issue with the Chair and the Chair will investigate; should it be the chair that I believe has breached this code, another governor, such as the vice chair will investigate;
- I understand that any allegation of a material breach of this code of practice by any governor shall be raised at a meeting of the Governing Body, and, if agreed to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be minuted and can lead to consideration of suspension from the Governing Body.
- I am aware of the following provisions:
 - Regulation 15(1) of the School Governance (Procedures) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, which pertain to the grounds for suspension as a school governor; and of
 - Schedule 6 to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 relating to the disqualifications from the role of school governor

Undertaking:

As a member of the Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the pupils and the reputation of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or staff.

Signed

Printed name

Date:

Forest Bridge School

Chair of Governors: Graham Sadd



Appendix: The Seven Principles of Public Life

(Originally published by the Nolan Committee: The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations).

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.