



Governor Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct sets out the expectations on and commitment required from governors in order for the governing body to properly carry out its work within the school and the community. It is the document by which we can hold each other to account for our conduct and adheres to the Nolan Seven Principles of public duty - honesty, integrity, selflessness, objectivity, leadership, accountability and openness.

It should be read in conjunction with the USP Handbook for Governance and the Governance Charter. Governors should sign this document when they first join the governing body and again at the first meeting of each new academic year thereafter.

THE UNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE CHARTER.

The Local Governing Body supports the Trust Board in its three core functions of governance as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation.

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold the executive to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the trust and make sure its money is well spent

At a local level, the Local Governing Body has a vital role in driving school improvement through the USP Governance Charter.

SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING: Putting our pupils, staff and community at the heart of what we do.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Ensuring the trust's and school's vision, values and ethos are realised.

CHALLENGE & SUPPORT: Through monitoring, dialogue and stakeholder engagement.

COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS: Ensuring adherence to the trust, school and statutory policy guidance

THE GOVERNOR CODE OF CONDUCT: By signing this code of conduct we agree to

- accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing body meeting.
- act fairly, appropriately and without prejudice.
- accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the local governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- consider carefully how our decisions may affect the school, Trust and the wider community.
- be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our academy and the Unity Schools Partnership
- understand the importance of and the requirements for safeguarding all our pupils, and agree to adhere to all Trust and school safeguarding policies and procedures
- involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- express views openly, courteously and respectfully

- observe confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of the governing body, staff, pupils, or parents, from any academy within the Unity Schools Partnership.
- make or respond to criticism or complaints following the procedures established by the governing body.
- look to attend all meetings and where we cannot explain in advance in full why we are unable to attend.
- record all pecuniary interest that we have in connection with the governing body's business in the Register of Interests.
- declare all pecuniary and other interests in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- when communicating in our private capacity (including on social media), be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation.
- agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the governing board as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- abide by guidance set out in the USP Handbook for Governance.