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**St Michael’s CE Primary**

**‘Creating a community where we learn together through respect, kindness, curiosity and faith’**

**Governors Code of Conduct 2024 - 2025**

* 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 of 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, WhatsApp) to air any negative 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.
* 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 Headteacher and relevant member of staff. Visits will be 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 of those involved.
* I will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff 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 interests that I have in connection with the Governing Body’s business in the Register of Business Interests.
* I will declare any pecuniary interest – or 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.
* I acknowledge that details of any business interests and other Governing Body memberships will be disclosed on the School Website in accordance with current legislation.

**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 governor; and of
* Schedule 6 of 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 reputations of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, value 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……………………………………………………………..

**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.)*

**1. Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

**2. Integrity**

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

**3. Objectivity**

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

**4. Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**5. Openness**

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

**6. Honesty**

Holders of public office should be truthful.

**7. Leadership**

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.