

Code of Practice for School Governors

This code sets out the expectations and commitment required from governors for the Governing Body to conduct its role within the school and the community.

The Governing Body is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The Governing Body aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their wellbeing.

The Governing Body is mindful that it is their responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.

It is important that the Governing Body adopts procedures consistent with the core values of good governance. These are:

- Having a clear understanding of the bodies core functions
- Engaging the community meaningfully in the governance of the school
- Taking decisions openly and corporately
- Developing the capacity and capability of governors to be effective

The Governing Body

- Will use staff and governor time appropriately, sensitively, and effectively.
- Will have regard to the need for the head teacher and staff to maintain a reasonable work/life balance in the way it conducts its business.
- Will actively engage with school self-evaluation.
- Agree the school improvement strategy which includes approving the budget and agreeing the staff structure.
- Understands the key strengths and weaknesses of the school.
- Challenges and supports the school by monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating, the implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework, progress towards targets, the implementation and effectiveness of the school improvement strategy, and the school budget.

- Ensures accountability by holding the head teacher to account for the performance of the school.
- Ensures parents, pupils and the community are involved, consulted, and given information as appropriate.
- Appoints and performance manages the head teacher who will deliver the aims (through day-to-day management of the school), the implementation of the agreed school improvement strategy and report to the Governing Body.
- Continually self evaluate its own performance management.
- Will have regard to equality of opportunity for both current and future governors in planning the frequency and times of meetings.
- Will be welcoming to new governors and ensure they receive appropriate induction and training.

The Role of a Governor

The Governing Body is a corporate body.

- No governor can act on his or her own without the authority of the full Governing Body.
- All governors carry equal responsibilities for decisions made.
- The overriding concern of all governors is the welfare of the school.

As a Governor

- It is acknowledged that the role involves the commitment of a significant amount of time.
- Every effort should be made to attend all meetings and when this is not possible an explanation of why shall be given.
- Visits to the school will be made through the agreed guidelines.
- There is a commitment to actively support and challenge the Head teacher.
- The governors will strive to work as a team. Express views openly, courteously, and respectfully. Support the Chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct at meetings. Answer any queries from other governors in relation to delegated functions and consider any concerns.
- Governors will always observe complete confidentiality.
- All pecuniary interests will be recorded.

Breach of these Codes of Practice

- Any breaches should be raised with the Chair for investigation.
- If the complaint is about the Chair, then the Vice Chair should investigate.
- Any allegations of a breach in the Codes of Practice shall be raised at the full Governing Body meeting. If agreed to be substantiated by most of the governors, shall be recorded and can lead to suspension from the governing body.

The governing body of the Petersgate Infant School adopted this Code of Practice on the 25th of September 2023. The Chair will sign the code at the first Governing Body meeting of each school year on behalf of and with the agreement of the full Governing Body.