

The Queen's School Board of Governors' Statement of Commitment

The Mission Statement of The Queen's Church of England Primary School focuses on providing the best possible education for every child within a Christian context. The Governing Body accepts responsibility for the policies and procedures of the school and for ensuring they are regularly reviewed in accordance with its strategic role. The Governing Body recognises that the Head teacher has responsibility for the internal organisation and day-to-day management of the school.

The Governing Body has the following core strategic functions.

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- setting the vision, values and objectives for the school,
- agreeing the school improvement strategy, with priorities and targets, and
- meeting statutory duties;

Ensuring accountability, by:

- appointing the head teacher,
- monitoring progress towards targets,
- performance managing the head teacher,
- engaging with stakeholders, and
- contributing to school self-evaluation;

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- setting the budget,
- monitoring spending against the budget,
- ensuring value for money is achieved, and
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed appropriately.

Governors will:

- act at all times according to the school's values of love, compassion and respect;
- bring all their skills, experience and perspective to their work, and work collaboratively and objectively at all times;
- attend meetings regularly and punctually;
- work together as a team;
- accept collective responsibility for the decisions made by the Governing Body and its committees even if personally voting for a different outcome;
- speak on behalf of the Governing Body only when they have been authorised to do so by the Governing Body;
- observe complete confidentiality of all confidential and sensitive matters, including the details of any Governing Body vote;
- respect the professional knowledge and experience of the Head teacher and the teaching staff;
- accept a fair share of the workload by actively involving themselves in the work of an appropriate number of (and a minimum of two) Governing Body committees, phases or working groups;

- endeavour to understand how the school works by undertaking visits to the school in accordance with the policy for governing visits;
- consider their training needs regularly, and participate in appropriate training, as necessary;
- in accordance with government legislation, comply with the school to instigate the application for an enhanced criminal records certificate within 21 days of appointment to the Governing Body;
- agree to note application form numbers and register immediately with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Update Service at www.gov.uk/DBS-update-service;
- acknowledge that, by registering with the Update Service, an annual DBS check will be electronically renewed, in their capacity as Governors on this Governing Body;
- actively pursue the school's interests.

The Governing Body will:

- seek to develop effective partnerships with the Head teacher, staff, parents, local community, local churches, the Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority;
- ensure the school is conducted in accordance with its Christian ethos;
- welcome new governors and ensure they have an opportunity to meet with the Head teacher and the Chair of Governors;
- seek out opportunities to praise staff and celebrate the school's achievements;
- take an interest in the welfare of all pupils and staff;
- seek appropriate advice, where necessary, before taking action;
- ensure all governors are treated equally and encouraged to contribute;
- conduct its business efficiently and in accordance with the relevant regulations and guidance and any standing orders determined by the Governing Body;
- agree alternative arrangements for Governors to participate remotely in the Governing Body's work, as appropriate;
- act, at all times, in accordance with the Nolan principles for standards in public life i.e. with selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Conflicts of interest

- Governors will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people Governors are connected with) they have in connection with the Governing Body's business in the Register of Business Interests and, if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting, offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time;
- The Register of Business and Governors' details will be published on the school website, in line with the Statutory Guidance for the Constitution of Governing Bodies, August 2015, for all Governors and Associate Members. Any Governor failing to provide information to enable the Governing Body to fulfil its responsibilities may be in breach of the code of conduct and as a result be bringing the Governing Body into disrepute;

- Governors will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting, should the situation arise;
- Governors will act primarily in the best interest of the school as a whole and not primarily as representatives of any group, even if elected as such to the Governing Body.

Breach of this statement of commitment

- if a Governor believes this statement of commitment has been breached they will raise this issue with the Chair (or the Vice Chair, if it is the Chair who is believed to have breached this statement), and the Chair (or Vice Chair) will investigate. The Governing Body will only use suspension or removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.

The Governing Body of the Queen's Church of England Primary School agreed this statement on 16.05.2016. All Governors will be asked to sign a copy upon their appointment to the Governing Body. It will be reviewed at the first meeting of each academic year.

Signed: _____

Date: _____