

Standing Orders of the Governing Body of The Queens C of E Primary School agreed at the Governing Body meeting held on 10 December 2015.

The Governing Body and its committees shall conduct its business in accordance with the relevant Acts and Regulations for the time being in force and with these Standing Orders. In the event of any inconsistency between the Standing Orders and the Acts and Regulations, the latter shall prevail.

Ethical Standards

Governors will act in accordance with the Statement of Commitment and the following principles:

- 1 Selflessness - Governors should always act in the interest of the school.
- 2 Integrity - Governors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try to inappropriately influence them in their work as Governors. They must declare and resolve any personal interests and relationships.
- 3 Objectivity – Governors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- 4 Accountability - Governors are accountable for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- 5 Openness - Governors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from publication unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.
- 6 Honesty - Governors should be truthful.
- 7 Leadership - Governors should actively promote and robustly support these principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Governing Body Membership and Development

- 8 The constitution of the Governing Body is set out in the school's Instrument of Government.
- 9 On joining the Governing Body and periodically thereafter, Governors will complete a skills audit to identify their training and development needs. These audits will inform recruitment for any Governor vacancies.
- 10 The Governing Body will review their goals for training and development annually at the Autumn term meeting.

Governing Body meetings

- 11 All meetings of the Governing Body and its committees will begin with prayer. The Governing Body will meet [] times a year. Meetings of the Governing Body will be planned for the whole year in advance. The clerk, in consultation with the Chair of Governors (the "Chair") and the Headteacher, will provide a list of proposed dates for the following school year at the summer term meeting.
- 12 Meetings will be limited to a maximum of 2 hours unless the Governing Body agrees to an extension in order to complete specified business.
- 13 The Chair will ensure that all members have an equal opportunity to express their views and, mindful of the length of the meeting, will encourage debate.

- 14 Meetings are convened by the clerk. Written notice of meetings and the agenda and papers will be sent to all governors, the Headteacher – (if not a governor), the LA and Diocesan Director of Education. Governors and others must receive the agenda and papers at least seven clear days before the meeting. If an extraordinary meeting has been called, the Chair or Vice-chair may allow shorter notice to be given. Non-receipt of the agenda/papers shall not invalidate the meeting. All papers will be sent by e-mail unless otherwise requested.
- 15 The Governing Body may resolve at any time to discontinue a meeting. A meeting which becomes inquorate must be discontinued. Items that have not been discussed when the meeting is discontinued will be placed on a subsequent agenda.

Quorum

- 16 The quorum for meetings of the full Governing Body will be half of the total membership (excluding vacancies), rounded up to a whole number.
- 17 The quorum for a committee will be at least three Governors.

Agendas

- 18 The clerk will prepare the agenda in consultation with the Chair and Headteacher. The agenda will include indicative timings for each agenda item, to assist in the conduct of business.
- 19 The standing, statutory, agenda items are:
- Chair's Report
 - Headteacher's Report
 - Safeguarding
 - Governor Training
- The standing, non-statutory, agenda item is strategy (linked to Vision).
- 20 The clerk will give written notice of the meeting at least seven days in advance together with a copy of the agenda for the meeting. If the Chair determines that there are matters requiring urgent consideration, shorter notice will be given.
- 21 Following discussion with the Chair, Governors may ask the clerk to place an item on the agenda, provided 14 days notice is given.

Attendance

- 22 If a member leaves a meeting early, the clerk will record this in the minutes; a similar record will be kept of any members joining the meeting after it has started.
- 23 The clerk will record in the minutes the attendance of members and others at all Governors' meetings; the clerks to the committees will keep a similar record.
- 24 A Governor or associate member will cease to hold office if they are absent without permission from all meetings over six months, beginning at the date of the first missed meeting.
- 25 In instances where a Governor is unable to attend a meeting in person the Governing Body may give prior approval to alternative arrangements for Governors to participate or vote at meetings by means of electronic communication.

Minutes

- 26 The minutes (approved by the Chair) shall be circulated to all members within 7 days of the meeting, unless the Governing Body agrees a different period.
- 27 Members may request to have their name recorded in the minutes in respect of any vote, or in respect of any dissenting view they may wish to express.
- 28 The minutes shall record the decisions and any action required to be carried out by members of the Governing Body or the clerk.
- 29 Where an important oral report is given at a meeting, the minutes shall record appropriate detail.
- 30 The minutes shall record any recommendations from working parties and committees.
- 31 The minutes will be approved by the Governing Body at the next meeting and signed by the Chair.
- 32 Minutes will be made available to any person upon request (but may be redacted to remove material relating to any matter that the Governing Body decides should remain confidential).

Decision-making and confidentiality

- 32 Decisions of the Governing Body and its committees are binding on all members. Members shall not discuss confidential items with anyone who is not a member of the Governing Body, except that Governors may obtain advice on such matters from the LA, Diocesan Board or other appropriate agency. The Chair, or chair of the appropriate committee, or clerk, will normally obtain such advice on behalf of the Governing Body.
- 33 Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote by a show of hands, unless the Governing Body require a secret ballot. Where there is a tied vote, the Chair shall have a second vote.
- 34 Decisions of the Governing Body may only be changed or rescinded at a subsequent meeting of the Governing Body providing this appears as a separate item on the agenda.

Chair and Vice-chair

- 35 The Chair and Vice-chair shall be elected at the first meeting of the autumn term by secret ballot, if contested. The clerk will request nominations for both positions before the meeting and the names of those willing to stand will be included on the agenda of the meeting. If no names are forthcoming, members may put themselves forward for these positions at the meeting. The clerk shall act as chair of the meeting during the election of the Chair.
- 36 If both the Chair and Vice-chair resign, the clerk shall call an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body within 21 days to elect their successors, unless an ordinary meeting of the Governing Body is scheduled within that time.
- 37 The Chair, or in his or her absence, the Vice-chair of the Governing Body may take urgent action; provided that:
 - (a) the Regulations allow the matter to be delegated; and
 - (b) a delay in dealing with the matter would be seriously detrimental to the interests of the school, a pupil, parent or members of staff; and
 - (c) it was not reasonably practicable to call a meeting of the Governing Body or committee.

Any such action taken by the Chair or Vice-chair shall be reported at the next meeting of the Governing Body.

38 The Chair will conduct all meetings of the full Governing Body and in his or her absence the Vice-chair will conduct the meeting. If the Vice-chair is also absent, the Governing Body shall elect a member to chair the meeting.

39 No employee or pupil at the school may stand for election as Chair or Vice-chair.

Information and correspondence

40 Where the Governing Body request information from the Headteacher, it will come to an agreed timescale for the information to be produced, taking account of the current circumstances.

41 The Governing Body will receive a written report by the Headteacher once a term.

42 With the exception of complaints (which will be dealt with under the school's complaints procedure), all correspondence, information and advice received by the Governing Body, from whatever source, shall be brought to the attention of the Governing Body. A list will be included on the agenda, together with a note of the action taken, where relevant. It is expected that information relevant to a particular committee will be passed to the chair of that committee.

43 Outgoing correspondence shall be signed by the Chair, Headteacher or clerk, as appropriate, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Delegation of functions to committees

44 The chairs of each committee shall be responsible for the agenda (in consultation with the Headteacher and committee clerk, as appropriate). Agendas and papers shall be sent to committee members 7 days in advance of the meeting.

45 The chairs of the committees will ensure that the committees meet regularly (where appropriate).

46 Committee minutes will be received by the next full meeting of the Governing Body, unless these are confidential to the committee, in which case, the chair of the committee will make a brief report of the decisions taken.

47 Any members of committees who are not governors will not be entitled to vote unless this is agreed by the full Governing Body.

48 The Governing Body will review, annually, the membership and terms of reference of its committees.