

ST. PHILIP HOWARD
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST PHILIP HOWARD CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

The governing body of St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy adopts the following principles.

General

1. We are entrusted by the Bishop of Nottingham Diocese with the ministry of school governance and will always act in recognition of the love of Christ for all members of the school community and one another.
2. We are required to comply with the provisions of Canon Law, the teachings of the Catholic Church and such directives made by the Bishop and his Trustees and their agent in respect of the school.
3. We have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates.
4. We recognise that our headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, management of the school and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.
5. We accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed or elected by different groups, our overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole.
6. We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so.
7. We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all legal requirements as the employer.
8. We will encourage open government and shall be seen to be doing so.
9. We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect other schools and the wider community.

Commitment

10. We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.

11. We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing body, attend regularly and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees and working parties.
12. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
13. We will consider seriously and act on our individual and collective needs for training and development.

Relationships

14. We will strive to work as a team.
15. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with our headteacher, staff, parents, parishes, Diocese, local authority, other relevant agencies and the local community.
16. In forming, building and sustaining good working relationships governors will strive to:
 - Remember that we are typically representative of the *category* of governor to which we are appointed or elected. We are not representatives of those *groups*, e.g. a representative parent, not a representative of the parents.
 - Work as members of a team in which all governors contribute and constructive working relationships are actively promoted, forming the governing body which functions with corporate responsibility and accountability.
 - Develop an open and honest relationship with the headteacher and all school staff, acting as 'critical friend' to the school, ensuring a balance is struck between offering challenge and support.
 - Ensure that effective relationships are built on trust and opportunities to network effectively and efficiently.
 - Ensure that relationships between governors and with other stakeholders are anchored in the principles which flow from the Gospel. The governing body will draw on the guidance offered in 'Christ at the Centre' that whilst not definitive, the core values of the Gospel are based on the Beatitudes and may be summarised as follows:
 - Faithfulness and integrity
 - Dignity and compassion
 - Humility and gentleness
 - Truth and justice
 - Forgiveness and mercy
 - Purity and holiness

Confidentiality

17. We will observe confidentiality regarding proceedings of the governing body in meetings and from our visits to school as governors.
18. We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the governing body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students.
19. We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the governing body.

Conduct

20. We will encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means we will not speak out against decisions, in public or private, outside the governing body.
21. We will only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
22. In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.
23. Our visits to school will be undertaken within the framework established by the governing body, in agreement with the headteacher and staff.
24. Governors will respond to criticism or complaints about the school and / or its staff by referring to the school's Complaints Procedure adopted by the governing body for the correct procedure to be followed, and will advise the complainant accordingly.
25. Governors will be expected to declare an interest in any item of business and withdraw from the meeting while it is under discussion.
26. In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the Catholic ethos and reputation of our school.

Suspension

27. If the need arises to use the sanction of suspending a governor we will do so by following the Regulations so as to ensure a fair and objective process.

Removal

28. We recognise that removing a governor from office is a last resort and that it is the appointing bodies that have the power to remove those they appoint.

29. If the need arises to use the sanction of removing a governor, we will do so by following the Constitution Regulations so as to ensure a fair and objective process.

As a member of the governing body of St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy, I agree to abide by the principles set out in this document.

Signed **Date**