



Board of Trustees' Code of Conduct 2016-17

This code sets out the expectations and commitment required from school trustees in order for the board to properly carry out its work within the School and the community.

The board 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
- meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability, by:

- appointing the headteacher
- monitoring progress towards targets
- performance managing the headteacher
- engaging with stakeholders
- contributing to School self-evaluation

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- setting the budget
- monitoring spending against the budget
- ensuring value for money is obtained
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

As individuals on the board we agree to the following:

Role and Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the headteacher.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside board meetings.
- We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- We will encourage open government and will act appropriately.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our School. Our actions within the School and the local community including the use of social networking sites will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the School we will follow the procedures established by the board.
- We will actively support and challenge the headteacher.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a trustee/committee member involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the School well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in School activities.
- We will visit the School, with all visits to School arranged in advance with the headteacher/staff and undertaken within the framework established by the board.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training
- We accept that in the interests of open government, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the boy responsible for appointing us will be published on the School's website.
- In the interests of transparency we accept that information relating to trustees/committee members will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Edubase).
- **In addition**, link trustees should:
 - meet with their linked heads of department (HoD) within the allocated time frames
 - provide link reports within one week of meeting to HoD and trustee in charge of link meetings
 - report back on link meetings at board meetings with comments and findings
 - strive to be actively be involved with their link department(s), attending special events such as House music etc

Relationships

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other trustees/committee members.
- We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We will be prepared to answer queries from other board members in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns expressed, and we will acknowledge the time, effort and skills that have been committed to the delegated function by those involved.
- We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside School
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding School business arise outside a board meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any board vote.

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those related to people we are connected with) that we have in connection with the board's business in the Register of Business Interests, and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the School's website.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- If any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We will record any governance roles in other educational establishments
- We will record any material interests arising from relationships between trustees or relationships between trustees and School staff (including spouses, partners and close relatives)
- We will act in the best interests of the School as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the board.

Breach of this code of conduct

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the chair and the chair will investigate; the board will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
- Should it be the chair that we believe has breached this code, another trustee, such as the vice chair will investigate.

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).

Selflessness - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity - Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity - In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability - Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness - Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty - Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership - Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Adopted by the board of Monk's Walk School on Monday 12 September 2016

As a member of the board of Monk’s Walk School I agree to the 2016-17 Board of Trustees’ Code of Conduct

Name of Trustee	Signature	Date
Maxine Bromyard		
Alexis Cheshire		
Liz Eksteen		
Ben Grist		
Steve Hutchinson		
Adam Lancaster		
Richard Maskrey		
Sally Mileson		
Alex Paterson		
Carole Pomfret		
Kate Smith		
Colleen Stewart		
Richard Tucker		
Ian Whitelegg		
Clive Wilson		
Zoe Wright		
Name of Associate		
Amber Cook		
Phil Dobson		
Ian Hawkins		
Nick Haynes		
Noel Kelly		
Tamara Kirk		
Tracie Smith		