



## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL**

The Governing Body of The John Fisher School adopts the following principles.

### **General**

1. We are entrusted by the Archbishop 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 have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates.
3. We recognise that our Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, management of the school and the implementation and operation of the curriculum.
4. 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 and its pupils as a whole.
5. We have no legal authority to act or speak individually, except when the Governing Body has given us delegated authority to do so.
6. We will carry equal responsibility for decisions made.
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.
10. 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 will reflect this.

## **Commitment**

11. We acknowledge that accepting office as a Governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
12. 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.
13. We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
14. We will consider seriously and act on our individual and collective needs for training and development.

## **Relationships**

15. We will strive to work as a team.
16. We will seek to develop effective working relationships with our Headteacher, staff, parents, parishes, Diocese, local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

## **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. 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**

25. 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**

26. 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.

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

All Governors sign the Code at the first Governing Body meeting of each school year.

**Undertaking**

As a member of the Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the pupils and the reputation of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or staff.

Signed by the Full Governing Body.

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