



Advisory Board Code of Conduct

Date: November 2024

Review date: November 2025

Approved by the Advisory Board: December 2024

Signed:

S. Day

Version Control

Version	Date of review/change(s)	Page and paragraphs affected	Summary of update
V2	November 2022	P3 para 1	objectives for the school ('trust' removed)
		P3 para 2, point 1 & point 3	'lead executive' removed
		P3 Roles and Responsibilities Points 1, 9, 11	'executive leaders' replaced with 'senior leaders'
		P3 Roles and Responsibilities Point 12	[advisory documents] 'and law' removed
		P4 Relationships point 5	executive leaders' replaced with 'senior leaders' and 'the trust' removed
		P4 Confidentiality point 2	'trust' removed
V3	November 2023		No changes
	November 2024		No changes

The advisory board has the following strategic functions:

Assist the strategic direction, by:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, values, and objectives for the school.
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets

Assist accountability, by:

- Appointing the headteacher (where delegated)
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school/s and progress towards agreed targets
- Performance managing the headteacher (where delegated)
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

As individuals on the board we agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the senior leaders.
- 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 advisory 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 the advisory board meeting.
- 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 advice 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/group of schools. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by the advisory board.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leaders.
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation.
- We will respect the role of the senior leaders and their responsibility for the day to day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements.
- We agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the advisory board as set out by the relevant advisory documents.
- When formally speaking or writing in our advisory role we will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views.

- When communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) we will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as an advisory board member involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the advisory 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 arranged in advance with the senior executive leader/Headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the advisory board.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as an advisory board member.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training.

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 advisors, the clerk to the advisory board and school staff, both in and outside of meetings.
- We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We are 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 senior leaders, 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 an advisory board meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any advisory board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.

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 advisory 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 will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.
- 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 advisory board.

Ceasing to be an advisory board member

- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after an advisor leaves office.

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 advisory 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 advisory board member, 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.

Integrity - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful

Leadership – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.