



The Federation of the Church Schools of
Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth

Together for a Brighter Future

GOVERNOR PROTOCOL

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

Approved by	SH/TG
Portfolio	Standards
Approved on	Autumn 2025
Review date	Autumn 2028
Review Cycle	3 Years
Policy Type	Non Statutory
Ratified/FGM Date	

Signed _____ Date _____

Governor Protocol Policy

The Core Purpose of the Governing Body

We have responsibility for:

- determining the aims and values of the federation;
- to provide a strategic view of where the school is heading
- monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the federation operates;
- promoting high standards and ensuring local accountability;
- to hold the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of the education it provides.
- insisting that the best interests of all pupils are paramount in decision-making
- to act as a critical friend by providing support and advice to the school

General

- We recognise that the headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the schools and the implementation of the curriculum.
- We are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life: see appendix
- We recognise and value the different perspectives of governors. We accept that all governors have equal status and are representatives, not delegates, of different interest groups. These groups have a shared concern; the welfare of all the pupils in the federation.
- With the exception of the Chair, when urgent action is required, we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given delegated authority to do so.
- We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfill the expectations of a good employer.
- We recognise that we are accountable and will encourage open government and effective communication.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- 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 or working groups.
- We will get to know the schools in the federation well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development.
- We will inform the relevant people, when we are not able to attend governor meetings and understand that failure to do so, after a period of six months, could mean disqualification from the Governing Body.
 - We are committed to actively supporting and challenging the Headteacher.

Relationships

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Headteacher, staff and parents, the LA and other relevant agencies and the local community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe confidentiality when required to do so by the governing body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or pupils.
- We recognise that some information we receive as governors is not confidential but may be sensitive. We will abide by the proper means of disseminating this information to the federation community.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the school arises outside the governing body.

Conduct

- 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 that we will not speak out against majority decisions in public or private outside the governing body.
- We will only speak on behalf of the governing body if we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the schools in the federation, we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.
- Our visits to school will be undertaken within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher.
- In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our federation.

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the governing body's business in the Register of Business Interests.
- We will declare any pecuniary interest - or a personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest - in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.

Appendix: 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.