



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MIDDLEWICH

CES MODEL

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS OF A GOVERNING BODY

This Code of Conduct has been approved and adopted by the Governing Body for use for Governors:

on 21st October 2021

and will be reviewed on 30th September 2022

Signed by the Chair of the Governing Body:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C J Wells".

Rev Mr C J Wells 21st October 2021

- This document should be available to view on your School's website.
- Governors are required to sign an undertaking which can be found overleaf:

AS GOVERNORS WE AGREE TO OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS FOLLOWS:

Role & Responsibilities

- We will preserve and develop the Catholic character of the School and this responsibility will permeate throughout all of our actions within, and through all aspects of, the School and the local community;
- We will ensure that the School is conducted in accordance with its trust deed, which includes the provisions of:
 - **Canon law;**²
 - **The Curriculum Directory and Bishops' statements on religious education; and**
 - **Any Diocesan directives relating to schools.**
- We will conduct the School in accordance with its Instrument (and Articles) of Government and in particular its ethos statement;
- We will support and implement the policies and procedures of the diocese of Shrewsbury including the Diocesan Bishop's policies on education, including religious education, any Admissions Guidance issued by the diocese, and the expectations of the Diocesan Bishops issued collectively, specifically the Bishops' Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools;
- We will respond to the needs of the Catholic community as a whole as represented by the Diocesan Bishop, complying in all respects with diocesan requirements;
- We will protect, promote and serve the Diocese in the ministry of our role as governors faithfully and in particular in compliance with Diocesan Protocols for a committed working relationship between the Diocese and the School
- We will consider not only the interests of the School, but the interests of other Catholic schools, colleges, academies and of Catholic education throughout the diocese;
- We will undertake to discharge our duties as governors with due care and diligence.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools, colleges and academies.
- We will attend relevant training including diocesan training; governor induction and continuing professional development training, as required by the diocese
- We understand the purpose of the governing body and our role as governors and the role of senior leadership.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing body 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.

² This means the Canon law of the Catholic Church from time to time in force, which includes the 1983 Code of Canon Law, and any Particular Law such as legislation of the Bishops' Conference, directives of the diocesan bishop and legislation of the school's religious order (if any).

- We will encourage transparency and will act appropriately.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the School we will follow the procedures established by the governing body.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leadership.
- We will adhere to the Nolan principles set out in Appendix II.

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, 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 positively respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in School activities.
- We will visit the School, with all visits to the School arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body
- We will evaluate our effectiveness as a governing body by way of completing a skills audit and a self evaluation form on an annual basis
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for continuous training and development as required by the diocesan education service, and will undertake that relevant training and any mandatory training as may be required by law.
- We accept that in the interests of transparency, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing body, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on our School's website and anything else as required by law.

Relationships

In all our relationships we shall exercise stewardship and draw on the teachings and example of Jesus Christ in that:

- All relationships will be built on the core values of the Gospel based on the Beatitudes summarised as: faithfulness and integrity; dignity and compassion; humility and gentleness; truth and justice; forgiveness and mercy; purity and holiness; tolerance and peace and service and sacrifice³
- We will comply with Diocesan Protocols for a committed working relationship between the Diocese and the School.
- We will ensure that we continually communicate with and, where appropriate, seek support and guidance from our diocesan education service
- 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 governors.
- We will support the chair in ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.

³ *Christ at the Centre: a summary of why the Church provides Catholic schools* Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- We are prepared to answer queries from other governors 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 diocese, parish, the senior leadership, staff and parents, pupils, the local authority, other relevant agencies, and the local community.

Confidentiality

- We will observe confidentiality in all circumstances in particular in relation to matters concerning specific members of staff or pupils, both inside and outside the School, unless there is a lawful requirement for disclosure.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding the business of the School arise outside a governing body meeting.
- We will exercise care and skill when communicating through social media.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing body vote.

Conflicts of interest

- We will always act in the best interests of the charitable objects set out in the governing documents of the School.
- 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 governing body'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.

BREACH OF THIS CODE

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will promptly raise this issue with the chair, consult with the diocese, determine the investigatory process (if any); the governing body will only use suspension/removal (which is at the absolute discretion of the Ordinary 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 governor, such as the vice chair will investigate.

We are also reminded of the declaration signed upon appointment of a Foundation Governor (the basic principles of which are agreed by all of the governing body) which you can find in this Code of Conduct at Appendix I for Foundation Governors in Schools

Appendix I

Copy of

Foundation Governor of a School

Declaration †:

*I am a committed and practising Catholic in good standing with the Church

*I am a Catholic priest/deacon in the Diocese of Shrewsbury

*(*delete as applicable)*

I wish to offer to serve the Diocese of Shrewsbury in the ministry of foundation governor.

I have read and understood the criteria for appointment and, to the best of my knowledge am eligible for appointment.

In offering to serve as a foundation governor in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, I undertake that I will serve the Bishop of the Diocese of Shrewsbury faithfully in this ministry. If appointed, I declare that I will be able and willing to give priority to my duties as a governor and will undertake to discharge those duties with due care and diligence.

I undertake to the Diocesan Bishop:

- To preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school to which I am appointed;
- To ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed which includes the provisions of:
 - **Canon law;**⁴
 - **The Curriculum Directory and Bishops' statements on religious education; and**
 - **Any Diocesan directives relating to schools.**
 -
- To conduct the school in accordance with its Instrument (and Articles) of Government and in particular its ethos statement;
- To become familiar with, to support and implement the policies and procedures of the diocese, including the Diocesan Bishop's policies on education, including religious education, any Admissions Guidance issued by the diocese, and the expectations of the Diocesan Bishops issued collectively, specifically the Bishops' Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools, and to represent those policies and expectations to the governing body;
- To consider not only the interests of the school but also the interests of other Catholic schools, colleges, academies and Catholic education throughout the diocese;
- To respond to the needs of the Catholic community as a whole as represented by the Diocesan Bishop;
- To attend relevant training including diocesan training; governor induction and continuing professional development training, as required by the diocese

⁴ This means the Canon law of the Catholic Church from time to time in force, which includes the 1983 Code of Canon Law, and any Particular Law such as legislation of the Bishops' Conference, directives of the diocesan bishop and legislation of the school's religious order (if any).

- In all actions, serving as a witness to the Catholic faith.

I declare that I am not disqualified by law from appointment as a governor. I confirm that I agree to a barred list check being made on me or any subsequent checks that may be required by law or good practice. I understand that any refusal to do so may result in the termination of any appointment.

I consent to the information given on this form and other information collected with it being held and processed by the Diocese, including the sharing of data with third parties where required, in accordance with diocesan policy.

I undertake that I shall tender my resignation as a governor if my circumstances change so as to contravene the diocesan expectations at any time during the tenure of office or if, in the opinion of the Ordinary my resignation would be in the best interests of Catholic education.

I understand and accept that the appointment and removal of foundation governors is at the absolute discretion of the Ordinary and that, because of the nature of the decision-making process, the Ordinary will not normally be able to engage in any discussion or correspondence with me and/or any third party where my nomination does not result in my appointment.

† This is a copy of the standard declaration that is required from you on appointment as is set out in the Nomination Form

Appendix II

The Nolan Principles

(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