



LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

CODE OF GOVERNANCE

2026 - 27

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour, ethics, accountability and professionalism expected of all Trustees, Governors and committee members. It supports effective governance and reflects the principles of the Academy Trust Governance Code, the NGA Code of Governance, the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Trust's values

As a Trust Board we recognise that:

- we are charity trustees and, where applicable, company directors;
- we must comply with charity, company, employment, education and safeguarding law;
- we must understand the Trust's Articles of Association, Scheme of Delegation and governance arrangements;
- we are collectively responsible for ensuring the Trust delivers its charitable purposes and public benefit
- we are committed to understanding and delivering the Trust's charitable Objects and strategic aims, and will regularly consider whether our decisions support those Objects
 - Lighthouse Schools Partnerships Object is to improve public education in the UK. It does this by creating and running Academies (both Church of England Academies that follow Church of England principles and others without a religious character.
 - Lighthouse Schools Partnership also aims to provide recreational and leisure facilities for people who need them due to age, disability, financial hardship, or difficult circumstances. These facilities are intended to improve quality of life and support social welfare.

As Trustees and Local Governors we:

Act in accordance with the seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness	All our decisions are taken in the public interest
Integrity	We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends
Objectivity	Our decisions are taken impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias
Accountability	We are comfortable submitting ourselves to external scrutiny
Openness	We take decisions in an open and transparent manner
Honesty	We are truthful in our actions, decisions and reporting
Leadership	We demonstrate the highest standards of public life in our individual and corporate behaviour

Fulfil our role & responsibilities.

- We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core purpose rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
- We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our scheme of delegation.
- We will develop, share, and live the ethos and values of our trust. Maintaining and upholding our school's religious ethos' where applicable.
- We agree to adhere to trust policies and procedures.
- We understand that while responsibilities may be delegated, accountability remains with the Trust Board.
- We will fully cooperate with requests that are necessary to ensure organisational compliance, including disclosure and barring or right to work checks.
- We will work collectively for the benefit of the trust.
- We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- We will consider how our decisions may affect the trust and local community.
- We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
- Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
- We will only speak or act on behalf of the trust board if we have the authority to do so.
- Follow the established procedures in relation to complaints received.
- Trustees: We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
- We will act in a manner that maintains public confidence in the Trust and the governance role, including when using social media.
- We will have regard to our responsibilities under The Equality Act and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.
- We will maintain and develop the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to discharge our governance responsibilities effectively
- Local governors: We will act as local ambassadors for our trust.
- We will ensure there are clear arrangements for concerns about impropriety, misconduct or wrongdoing to be raised in confidence ('whistleblowing'), and we will support and engage with this process.
- We will support the Trust's commitment to inclusion, ensuring that the needs of all pupils, particularly those with SEND, those who are disadvantaged and those known to social care, are considered in our strategic decision-making and oversight.
- We recognise our responsibility to help ensure a culture in which pupils, staff and others feel safe and able to raise concerns and will support the board in regularly reviewing safeguarding policies, risks and training.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

- We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the board and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
- We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution, and observe protocol.
- We will get to know the school/s well and welcome opportunities to be involved in school activities.
- We will visit the school/s and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.
- When visiting a school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
- We will participate in induction training, prioritise training in required areas (such as safeguarding) and commit to developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.
- We will take part in an annual internal review of Board and trustee effectiveness, and commission an external independent evaluation at least every three years

Build and maintain relationships

- We will develop effective working relationships with leaders, staff, parents, and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities.
- Local governors: We will champion the voices of our school community and stakeholders, ensuring views are gathered and considered appropriately in decision making.
- Local governors: We will establish effective working relationships with trustees.
- Trustees: We will engage with and be accountable to those governing at local level.
- Trustees: We will respect the remit of, and engage constructively with, relevant authorities, sector bodies and other trusts.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
- We will work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally.
- We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Understand our relationship with Members

- We recognise that the Trust Board is accountable to the Trust's Members and will support a clear separation between the activities of the Board and those of Members.
- We will support the Board in reporting to Members annually on how the Trust is achieving its charitable Objects, and in keeping Members informed of key developments and risks.

Respect confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of the trust when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.
- We will practice good ICT security, keep personal data safe and support GDPR compliance.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

- We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business, and these will be recorded in the register of business interests.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the trust website.
- We will act as a trustee/academy committee member, not as a representative of any group.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the trust board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor/trustee and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the trust website.
- We accept that information relating to board members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

Champion equality, diversity and inclusion

- We will actively support the Trust's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion, valuing diverse perspectives and experience on the board, and will help identify and address any inappropriate power imbalances.
- We will support monitoring of the Trust's schools against the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty and help ensure any gaps identified are acted upon.

Ceasing to be a Governor/trustee/academy committee member

- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a Governor/trustee/academy committee member leaves office

Breach of this code of conduct

We understand that potential or alleged breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach may lead to removal from office where this is permitted within the Trust's governance arrangements.

Alleged breaches will be considered in accordance with the Trust's governance procedures and principles of natural justice.

We agree to step down as a board member if we find we are unable to fulfil these expectations.

This Code reflects the Academy Trust Handbook July 2026 and the 2025 NGA Code of Governance.

Last reviewed: August 2026