

# ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

## Code of Conduct of the Governing Body



John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

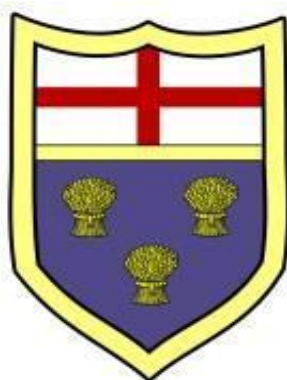
**ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*firm foundations, shining bright*

Matthew 16:18 "You are Peter and upon this rock I shall build my church."

### OUR VISION

Like St Peter, we build upon the rock of Jesus to enable us to shine: achieving our God given potential and loving ourselves, others, the world and God.



**2023 – 2024**

Date Adopted: 26.09.23

Date of Review: Autumn 2024

Committee: FGB

The governing board is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing board aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

The governing board in recognising the school's historic foundation will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the church at parish and diocesan level. The governing board supports the school's aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

**The governing board has the following core strategic functions:**

**Establishing the strategic direction by:**

- setting the vision, values and objectives for the school;
- agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- meeting statutory duties

**Ensuring accountability by:**

- appointing the Headteacher
- monitoring progress towards targets
- performance managing the Headteacher
- engaging with stakeholders
- contributing to school self-evaluation

**Ensuring financial probity, by:**

- setting the budget
- monitoring spending against the budget
- ensuring value for money is obtained
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed.

**As individuals on the governing board we agree to the following:**

**Roles and Responsibilities**

- we will develop and maintain the Christian ethos of the school
- we understand the purpose of the governing board and the role of the Headteacher
- we accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the governing board when we have been specifically authorised to do so

- we accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing 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 as a good employer
- we will encourage open government 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 responsibilities to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this
- in making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing board
- we will actively support and challenge the Headteacher
- we are aware of the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life (see Appendix below)

### **Commitment**

- we acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy
- we accept that in the interests of open government, our names, terms of office, roles on the governing body, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
- we will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing 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 to school arranged in advance with staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board and agreed with the Headteacher
- we will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for 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 our communications with other governors

- 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 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 our Headteacher, 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 and outside the school
- we will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a governing board meeting
- we will not reveal the details of any governing board vote

### **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, and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time
- similarly, we will declare any personal interest, such as friend and family connections, and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time
- 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 governing body

### **Allegiance to the School**

To foster a positive and effectiveness partnership between the Governing Board, the Headteacher and the Senior Management Team we shall -

- Support the aims, objectives and Christian ethos of the school and promote the interests of the school and its pupils in the wider community
- Work co-operatively with other governors in the best interests of the school
- Acknowledge that differences of opinion may arise in discussion of issues but where the governing board takes a majority decision, this decision must be respected and upheld
- Maintain confidentiality when required
- Base their decisions on the facts presented, and not be swayed by other considerations

- Attend the governors' meetings and make sure that if they elect to serve on a committees they have the time to do so
- Be willing to undergo appropriate training.

**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 governing board will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways
- Should we believe that the Chair has breached this Code, another governor, such as the Vice Chair, will investigate.

**I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

<b>SIGNED:</b>		<b>NAME:</b> [PLEASE PRINT]
<b>DATE:</b>		

[Adapted from the NGA Code of Practice for School and Academy Governing Bodies, August 2014, plus additional material on Allegiance to the school, extracted from the Diocese of Chester's website]

(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.

Adopted by the Governing Board	September 2022
Review	September 2023