

Policy:	Governor Code of Conduct
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THE VISION AND VALUES OF THE SCHOOL

Our Vision

**Jesus said "I have come so that you might have life –
life in all its fullness." John 10:10**

Jesus encouraged all his children to live life in all its' fullness. Through our core values of **love, courage** and **fellowship**, and with an enquiry approach to our inter-disciplinary curriculum, our children enjoy learning about themselves, about others and the world which we are guardians of. We nurture a love of learning, celebrate courage to persevere in learning and fellowship through collaboration and recognising each other's strengths and special qualities.

'Be kind, never give up and work together.'

Love: Understanding to love ourselves and one another alongside developing a deep-rooted love for learning.

Courage: Perseverance, developing an enquiring mind and learning to take measured risks takes courage as does standing up for what you believe is right.

Fellowship: Through strong fellowship with our community and ensuring everyone's strengths and unique contributions are valued, we focus on ensuring that all learners are confident and reflective individuals with a strong sense of belonging; preparing them to be independent life-long learners.

DISTINCTIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR SCHOOL

Everyday life at Chawton CE Primary School is underpinned implicitly with Christian values, which we are working to spread more explicitly through the curriculum. Our Christian values of love, courage and fellowship have been chosen by the whole school community and provide the foundations of our school ethos. They underpin all aspect of daily school life, as well as reaching into the lives of both the children and the whole school community.

'Pupils go way beyond the vision of being kind. They show a high degree of dignity and respect to one another and attribute this to the vision.'

SIAMS report, June 2023

'Let all that you do, be done in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1: 5-9

'If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...' 1 John 1-7

The governing body has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing 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
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school and progress towards agreed targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

Ensure that other key players with a stake in the organisation get their voices heard by:

- Gathering the views of pupils, parents and staff and reporting on the results
- Reaching out to the school's wider community and inviting them to play their part
- Using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies and procedures.

As individuals on the governing body we agree to the following:

Roles and Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the governing body and its strategic role.
- We understand how the role of the governing body differs from and works with others including the Headteacher.
- 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 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 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 responsibility 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 body.
- We will actively support and challenge the Headteacher.
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the governing body and the staff, ensuring that we act collectively for the benefit of the school.
- We will respect the role of the Headteacher and their responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school 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 governing body as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role we will ensure our comments reflect current school 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 and values of the school.
- We will avoid, as far as possible, becoming involved in any communication which may lead to a conflict of interest with the role of the governing body.

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 respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will visit the school, with all visits to school arranged in advance with the Headteacher and undertaken within the framework established by the governing body.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as a governor.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- We accept that in the interests of open government, 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 the school's website.
- In the interests of transparency, we accept that information relating to governors will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Get Information About Schools).

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 governors, the clerk to the governing body 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 will confront malpractice by speaking up against and bringing to the attention of the relevant authorities' any decisions and actions that conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or which may place pupils at risk.
- 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 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 or outside school.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school business arise outside a governing body meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing body vote.
- We will be mindful of internet security if e-mailing sensitive information and consider if it is appropriate to use a work e-mail address for governor business.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a governor leaves office.

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 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.
- 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.

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 body 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 governor, 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. 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.