



# Blue Hills Federation



## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEPTEMBER 2023

### The Blue Hills Federation

The Blue Hills Federation is a collective of three primary schools – Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St Mary's Bucknell CE Primary School. All three schools share one Executive Headteacher and one Governing Body. When using the term 'Blue Hills Federation' within this policy, it is in reference to all three schools. When policy only applies to one school that school will be named specifically. Newcastle CE Primary School does not have a nursery or a preschool, therefore any references to nursery or pre-school do not apply to Newcastle CE Primary School.

### Our Vision

Proverbs 22:6 - Good News Bible

***'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.'***

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitates learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

### Our Values

Trust and Truth; Joy and Happiness; Love and Respect; Thankfulness;  
Friendship and Family; Perseverance and Resilience

**Review Date: September 2026**

# Code of Conduct for the Board of Governors of the Blue Hills Federation

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from school governors and trustees in order for the governing board to properly carry out its work within the schools and communities.

The governing board has the following core strategic functions:

## Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the schools
- Agreeing the schools improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

## Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the Executive Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Executive Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to the schools 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 board we agree to the following:

## Role and Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the board and the role of the Executive Headteacher
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the 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 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 of a good employer
- We will encourage open government and will act appropriately
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the communities and other schools
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our schools. Our actions within the schools and the local communities will reflect this
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the schools we will follow the procedures established by the governing board
- We will actively support and challenge the Executive Headteacher

## 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 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 so to do
- We will get to know the schools well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities
- We will visit the schools, with all visits to schools arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board and agreed with the Executive Headteacher
- 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 names, terms of office, roles on the governing body, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the schools' website

## **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
- 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 the Executive 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 the schools
- 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 (including those related to people we are connected with) that we have in connection with the governing board'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 schools' 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 schools as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the governing board

## **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 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.