

Code of Conduct¹ for Trustees

The Trust Board has three core functions:

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- *Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the Trust and approving those for each academy*
- *Agreeing the Trust development strategy with priorities and targets*
- *Meeting statutory duties*

Ensuring accountability, by:

- *Appointing the Senior Executive Leader and each Principal*
- *Monitoring progress towards targets*
- *Performance managing the Senior Executive Leader and each Principal*
- *Engaging with stakeholders*
- *Contributing to and approving the Trust's self-evaluation*

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- *Setting the budget for the Trust and approving individual academy budgets*
- *Monitoring spending against the budget*
- *Ensuring value for money is obtained*
- *Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed*

As individuals on the Trust Board we agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the Trust Board and the role of the Senior Executive Leader.
- 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 Trust Board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept individual responsibility to prepare appropriately for all Trust Board meetings.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Trust Board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the Trust Board meeting.

¹ This code is the NGA model Code of Conduct for Governing Bodies tailored for Inspirational Futures Trust. It sets out the expectations and commitment required from trustees and academy governors in order for the Trust Board to properly carry out its work within the Trust, its academies and the community.

- 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 Trust, the community and other academies.
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our Trust. Our actions within the Trust, its academy and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the schools in the Trust we will follow the procedures established by the local governing board.
- We will actively support and challenge the Senior Executive Leader.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a trustee involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the Trust 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 Trust and its academies well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in Trust activities.
- We will visit the Trust academies, with all visits to academies arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the Trust Board and agreed with the Senior Executive Leader
- 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 Trust Board, category of trustee and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the Trust's 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 trustees.
- 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 trustees 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 Senior Executive Leader, academy governors and principals, 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 academy.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding academy business arise outside a Trust Board meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any Trust 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 Trust 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 academy'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 Trust as a whole and not as a representative of any group when elected to the Trust 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 Trust 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 trustee, such as the vice chair will investigate.

Standards in Public Life

- We will comply with the seven principles of public life (The Nolan Principles) set out on the following page.

Reviewed by the Trust Executive team, July, 2018

Approved by the IFT Trust Board on 12 September, 2018

Chair of Trust:

The Seven Principles of Public Life²

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.

² 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.