



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS

Introduction:

The business of the Governing Body shall be conducted in accordance with the Instrument and Articles of Government and the Trust Deed. This Code is intended to be a guide, to indicate the standards of conduct and accountability which are expected of members of the Governing Body, to enable them to understand their legal and ethical duties and to assist them in carrying out those duties.

By accepting appointment to the governing body of St Francis Xavier College each Governor agrees to accept the provisions of this code.

A Governor of St Francis Xavier College should:

- a) Maintain and develop the objectives of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.
- b) Support the aims, objectives, values and mission of the College and promote the interests of the College and its students and staff.
- c) Observe the provisions of the College's Instrument and Articles of Government and in particular the responsibilities given to the Governing Body by the College's Articles of Government and have regard to the different, but complementary, responsibilities given to the Principal as Chief Executive.
- d) Comply with, and keep under regular review, the Standing Orders (Conduct of Business) and terms of reference of the Governing Body and its committees to ensure it conducts itself in an orderly, fair, open and transparent manner.
- e) Be committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of students and staff in the College and to combating any discrimination within the College on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- f) Work co-operatively and corporately with other Governors in the best interests of the College.
- g) Acknowledge that differences of opinion may arise in discussion of issues, but when a majority decision of the Governors prevails, it should be supported.
- h) Base his or her view on matters before the Governing Body on an honest assessment of the available facts, unbiased by partisan or representative views.
- i) Acknowledge that, as an individual Governor, he or she has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Governing Body and its Committees.

- j) Understand that an individual Governor does not have the right, other than through the Chair and Governing Body's agreement, to make statements or express opinions on behalf of the Governors.
- k) Resist any temptation, or outside pressure to use the position of Governor to benefit himself or herself or other individuals or agencies.
- l) Declare openly and immediately any personal conflict of interest arising from a matter before the Governors, or from any other aspect of governorship.
- m) Governors must disclose routinely to the governing body all business interests, financial or otherwise, which they may have, and the Clerk will enter such interests on the Register of Interests held open for public inspection.
- n) Governors must not receive gifts, hospitality or benefits of any kind from a third party which might be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity. Any offer of such gifts, hospitality or benefits should be reported immediately to the Clerk.
- o) Respect the confidentiality of those items of business which the Governing Body decides, from time to time, should remain confidential.
- p) Take or seek opportunities to enhance his or her effectiveness as a Governor through participation in training and development programmes and by increasing his or her own knowledge of the College.
- q) Give priority, as far as practicable, to attendance at meetings of the Governing Body and its Committees.
- r) Have regard to his or her broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution, including the need to promote public accountability for the actions and performance of the Governing Body.