BWMAT Code of Conduct for Members of Trust Local Committee

The role of the Trust Local Committee (TLC) is to form a positive partnership with the school's stakeholders and provide confident, strategic leadership to the school community. The TLC will create a robust accountability framework that enables oversight and assurance of the school's arrangements to promote safeguarding and high standards in all aspects of the school's work whilst promoting a distinctively Christian ethos in support of the Trust's wider vision.

We will abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Trust Expectations

As TLC members, we will apply the highest standards and will:

1. act within our delegated responsibilities

2. promote the success of the Trust

3. exercise independent judgement

4. exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence

5. avoid conflicts of interest

6. not accept benefits from third parties

7. declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements

As individuals, we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on the strategic elements of our role rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day operational activity.

2. We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation

3. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our trust.

4. We agree to adhere to trust policies and procedures.

5. We shall fully cooperate with individual requests that are necessary to ensure organisational compliance, such as disclosure and barring or right to work checks.

6. We will work collectively for the benefit of the trust.

7. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.

8. We will consider how our decisions may affect the school, trust and local community.

9. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.

10. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.

11. When making or responding to complaints, we will follow the trust's complaints policy.

12. We will strive to uphold the school and trust's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).

13. We will have regard to our responsibilities under The Equality Act and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

14. We will act as local ambassadors for our trust.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the TLC and accept our fair share of responsibilities.

2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend, we will explain in advance why we are unable to and ensure that apologies are offered to the meeting. Failure to attend and offer apologies for two consecutive meetings will lead to a membership review.

3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.

4. We will get to know the school/s well and welcome opportunities to be involved in school activities.

5. As part of getting to know the school well, we will visit the school/s and when doing so this will be as part of TLC planned activity. We will make arrangements with senior leaders in advance and observe school protocols.

6. When visiting a school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.

7. We will participate in induction training, prioritise training in essential areas and commit to developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

8. We will specifically undertake the GovernorHub essential training *Safeguarding for Governance including KCSiE* full module and/or refresher, within 4 weeks of appointment and then annually by the end of September. We understand that failure to do so may lead to the termination of our membership of the Trust Local Committee.

Build and maintain relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local communities.

2. We will champion the voices of our school community and stakeholders.

3. We will establish effective working relationships with trustees.

4. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications both inside and outside of meetings.

5. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each member's contributions are valued equally.

6. We will support the chair in their role of leading the TLC and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of the school and trust when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.

2. We will not reveal the details of any TLC vote.

3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.

4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the school or trust's business, and these will be recorded in the register of business interests.

2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.

3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.

4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the trust's website and any updates made in a timely manner.

5. We will act as a TLC member, not as a representative of any group.

6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the TLC, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of TLC member and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school website.

7. We accept that information relating to TLC members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

We agree that this code of conduct will be reviewed annually and endorsed by the full TLC upon appointment and at their first meeting of each academic year.