

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Signature of the Chair of the Board of Trustees:

Review date: Autumn Term 2023

The code sets out the main responsibilities of Governors; all of whom are required to adhere to this code.

Governors sit on Local Governing Boards (LGBs) which are committees to the Trust and as such have powers delegated to them from the Trust. LGBs have the following core functions:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the organisation, making sure that its money is well spent and the requirements of the Academies' Financial Handbook adhered to

In pursuance of these core functions, I undertake to:

- Follow the Seven Principles of Public Life as published by the Nolan Committee (Appendix 1).
- Manage the affairs of the LGB prudently.
- Understand the structure of the MAT and the legal framework in which it operates.
- Act strictly in accordance with the Trust's Schemes of Governance, Delegation and Financial Delegation.
- Work to fulfil the Objects of the Trust.
- Works on behalf of all pupils and make impartial decisions, promoting the needs of my school for the benefit of the MAT.
- Follow the guidance set out by the Department for Education in the Governance Handbook (Appendix 2).
- Adhere to the Trust's Scheme of Governance (Appendix 3)

- Accept that I have no legal authority to act individually, except when the LGB has given me delegated authority to do so, and therefore I shall only speak on behalf of the LGB when I have been specifically authorised to do so.
- Attend LGB and committee meetings<sup>1</sup> and accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board.
- Act fairly, without prejudice and in the best interests of the LGB/Trust only; and without regard to any other interest.
- Understand my role and duties and carry them out with professionalism and diligence.
- Consider my individual needs for training and development and undertake relevant training.
- Take professional advice on any matters on which I may not be competent.
- Not use information gained in the course of my LGB duties for personal gain; nor seek to use the opportunity of service to promote my private interests, or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations.
- Act with discretion and observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or sensitive.
- Record any pecuniary or other business interest (including those relating to people with whom I have connections) that I have in connection with the LGB/Trust's business in the Register of Business Interests; and if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting I shall offer to leave the meeting whilst it is discussed.
- Declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting and/or discussion should the situation arise.
- Raise any concern through the appropriate mechanism.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Name of the LGB of which you are a member:

The De Curci Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 10646541. Registered office address: Springfield School Central Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hampshire, United Kingdom, PO6 1QY.

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<sup>1</sup> In matters of attendance the Trust reserves the right to use the powers set out in section 70 of the De Curci Trust's Articles of Association.

## Appendix 1

### 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.