Code of Conduct for Governors of Local Governing Bodies.

Staff Member with Responsibility:	CEO
Reviewed by:	Board of Trustees
Date of review:	Summer Term 2026
Date of next review:	Summer Term 2027

This code should be read in conjunction with the relevant law, the Articles of Association and the Scheme of Delegation.

All Governors agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and to follow the charity governance code.

We will abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life and demonstrate our commitment to ethical governance:

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

We will apply the highest standards and will:

1. act within our powers
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

We will focus on our core purpose

1. strategic leadership: defining a vision, fostering a culture and ethos, and championing the strategy
2. accountability and assurance: providing robust and effective oversight of operations and performance
3. engagement: strategic oversight of relationships with stakeholders

Governor key responsibilities:

Implementing the ECED Academy Trust's agreed strategy by:

- Delivering the vision, values, and objectives within the school
- Agreeing a school improvement plan with priorities and targets, and holding senior school leaders to account
- Supporting the Trustees in meeting statutory and legal requirements

In order to do this effectively we will:

Ensure accountability, by:

- Holding the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to account.
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school and progress towards agreed targets
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation
- Accessing the information, training and development needed to ensure that the Local Governing Board has the knowledge and capabilities to deliver the Trust's objectives at school level

Identify, manage and advise on risks to the achievement of the Trust's objectives.

Ensure that other key stakeholders in the school are heard:

- Gathering the views of pupils, parents and staff and reporting on the results.
- Reaching out to the school's wider community and inviting them to play their part.
- Supporting the Governors by using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies and procedures.

We as Governors will act as follows:

Fulfilling our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management.
2. We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our scheme of delegation.
3. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of the schools within our trust.
4. We agree to adhere to trust/school policies and the 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 and its schools.
7. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
8. We will consider how our decisions may affect our trust, school 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 criticism or complaints we will follow any procedures established by the Board of Trustees.
12. We will strive to uphold the trust/school'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 and its schools.

Demonstrating our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the Local Governing Body, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
2. We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
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 schools within the trust well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in their activities.
5. We will visit school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.
6. When visiting in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will continue to honor the commitments made in this code.
7. We will participate in induction training, prioritise training in required areas (such as safeguarding) and commit to developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Building and Maintaining Relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community/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 with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
5. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally.
6. We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respecting confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside and outside the school.
2. We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school/trust business arise outside a Local Governing Body meeting.
3. We will not reveal the details of any Local Governing Body vote.
4. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
5. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office

Declaring conflicts of interest and being transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the 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 situation 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 website
5. We will act in the best interests of the trust as a whole and 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 governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
7. We accept that information relating to Governing Body members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

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

Signed…… (Govenor)

Date……