



# LUX MUNDI

LIGHT OF THE WORLD ~ CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Governors' Code of Conduct 2025-26 **CARDINAL POLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Status: Public

**APPROVED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY ON...**1st October 2025

**CHAIR OF GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE:....**

*David Rhans*

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## **Cardinal Pole School Vision**

Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a learning community for all based upon partnership and respect. It is a strong and vibrant place which recognizes the importance and individual needs of every pupil and member of staff. Praise and encouragement is vital in creating a climate of learning and high expectations supported by teaching of the highest quality. The school is full of confident, creative and fulfilled young people and staff. They are celebrated as individuals – unique creations of God – who deserve our support, love and trust as they begin the great journey of life.

## **Mission Statement**

Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a community of **service** guiding young people on a path to **opportunity**, **aspiration** and **reward**, founded on Catholic values

**All Cardinal Pole school Governors must read the following document and abide by its content.**

**The Governing Body has the following strategic functions:**

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, mission, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets.
- Meeting statutory duties.
- Regularly reviewing policies.

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the Executive Headteacher (where delegated)
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school and progress towards agreed targets
- Performance managing the Executive Headteacher (where delegated)
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

Ensure that other key players with a stake in the organisation get their voices heard by:

- 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.
- Using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies and procedures.

Our overarching responsibility lies in ensuring that we comply with our legal and canonical duty to ensure that the Catholic character of the school is preserved and developed and that this duty permeates everything that we do.

We understand that Foundation Governors are required, as the cornerstone of their role, to ensure this objective is achieved. However, **all** Governors have a duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school in order to fulfil the objects set out in its governing documents.

**As individuals on the Governing Body we have read and agree to adhere to the following:**

**Role & Responsibilities**

- We will preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school.
- We will not act in a way that is detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests of Catholic education in the Diocese and the school.
- To complete and renew a full DBS every 3 years in line with the school's policy and understand that any refusal to do so may result in termination of appointment.
- Will notify the school if I become no longer eligible to be a school governor as outlined in the School Governance Constitution for maintained school governors.
- We understand the purpose of the board and its strategic role.
- We will conduct the school in accordance with its Articles of Association, Scheme of Delegation and Instrument of Governance.
- We understand how the role of the board differs from and works with others including the Executive Headteacher.
- 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 Governing Body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the Governing Body meeting.
- 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 governance and will act appropriately.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.
- We will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school/group of schools. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by the Governing Body.
- We will actively support and challenge the executive leaders.
- We will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation.
- We will respect the role of the executive leaders and their responsibility for the day to day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements.
- We will support and implement the policies and procedures of the Diocese including the Diocesan policies on education, any guidance issued on admissions and expectations issued by the Diocesan Bishop, specifically the Bishop's Memorandum on the appointment of staff in Catholic Schools.
- We will protect, promote and serve the Diocese in the ministry of our role faithfully and in compliance with the Diocesan protocols.
- We agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the Governing Body as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- We will undertake to discharge our duties with due care and diligence.
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role we will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views

- When communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) we will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation.
- We will avoid, as far as possible, becoming involved in any communication which may lead to a conflict of interest with the role of the Governing Body.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school, we will follow the procedures established by the Governing Body and liaise directly with the Chair and Clerk in advance.
- We understand the purpose of the Governing Board and our role and the role of the senior leadership team.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leadership.
- We will uphold the reputation of the school, the Diocese and Catholic education as a whole at all times and to that end carefully consider and monitor our personal use of social media.

### **Commitment**

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor and committee member involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing Body, 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, we will explain in advance why we are unable to the clerk or the Chair.
- We will arrive at all meetings well prepared including reading all papers in advance.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- We will ensure that all Governing Body communication is responded to in a timely fashion.
- We will ensure that personal contact information of fellow Governors or school staff is not shared without prior consent.
- We will ensure that all requests for additional information or questions are submitted to the clerk at least 24 hours' notice.
- We will regularly attend relevant training both internal and external and continuing professional development and notify the Clerk/Executive Headteacher's PA when this has been completed.
- We will visit the school, with all visits arranged in advance via the Executive Headteacher's PA and undertaken within the framework established by the Governing Body.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will maintain our underlying responsibility as a Governors/trustees/academy committee member.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the Governing Body, 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.
- In the interests of transparency, we accept that information relating to Governors and committee members will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of Governors (Get information about schools).
- We will evaluate our effectiveness as a Governing Body by way of completing a skills audit and a self-evaluation form on an annual basis.

## **Relationships**

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will ensure that we continually communicate with and, where appropriate, seek support and guidance from the Diocesan Education Service.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other Governors/trustees/academy committee members, the clerk to the Governing Body and school staff both in and outside of meetings.
- We will support the Chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We will confront malpractice by speaking up against and bringing to the attention of the relevant authorities' any decisions and actions that conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life (see annex) or which may place pupils at risk.
- We are prepared to answer queries from other Governing Body members 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 executive leaders, staff and parents, the trust, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.
- We will follow the Equality Act 2020 and be fair and equitable in all that we do.

## **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 school.
- We will exercise the greatest prudence at all times when discussions regarding school/trust business arise outside a Governing Body meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any Governing Body vote.
- We will ensure all papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We will exercise care and skill when communicating through social media.

## **Conflicts of interest**

- We will always act in the best interests of the charitable objects set out in the governing documents of the school.
- 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 Governing Body'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 will also notify the clerk of any changes to our pecuniary or other business interests.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school/trust'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 school as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected to the Governing Body.

## **Ceasing to be a Governor or committee member**

- We understand that any resignation should be made in writing to the Chair of Governors and sent to the Chair and Clerk as soon as possible.
- We understand that the requirements relating to confidentiality will continue to apply after a Governor/trustee/academy committee member leaves office.

## **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 Governing Body 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 Governing Body member, such as the Vice Chair will investigate.

Adopted by the Governing Body of Cardinal Pole Catholic School on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## **ANNEX**

### **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.

**Integrity** - Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

**Objectivity** - Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

**Accountability** - Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**Openness** - Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

**Honesty** - Holders of public office should be truthful

**Leadership** - Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

### **The Framework for Ethical Leadership in Education**

*The Ethical Leadership Commission has developed the following Framework for Ethical Leadership to help school leaders take difficult decisions. As important as the language is, these aren't just fine words, they are meant to support a culture in which ethical decision making can flourish.*

1. Selflessness School and college leaders should act solely in the interest of children and young people.
2. Integrity School and college leaders must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. Before acting and taking decisions, they must declare and resolve openly any perceived conflict of interest and relationships.
3. Objectivity School and college leaders must act and take decisions impartially and fairly, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. Leaders should be

dispassionate, exercising judgement and analysis for the good of children and young people.

4. Accountability School and college leaders are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
5. Openness School and college leaders should expect to act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from scrutiny unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
6. Honesty School and college leaders should be truthful.
7. Leadership School and college leaders should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles, and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs. Leaders include both those who are paid to lead schools and colleges and those who volunteer to govern them.

Schools and colleges serve children and young people and help them grow into fulfilled and valued citizens. As role models for the young, how we behave as leaders is as important as what we do. Leaders should show leadership through the following personal characteristics or virtues:

- a. **Trust:** *leaders are trustworthy and reliable*  
We hold trust on behalf of children and should be beyond reproach. We are honest about our motivations.
- b. **Wisdom:** *leaders use experience, knowledge and insight*  
We demonstrate moderation and self-awareness. We act calmly and rationally. We serve our schools and colleges with propriety and good sense.
- c. **Kindness:** *leaders demonstrate respect, generosity of spirit, understanding and good temper*  
We give difficult messages humanely where conflict is unavoidable.
- d. **Justice:** *leaders are fair and work for the good of all children*  
We seek to enable all young people to lead useful, happy and fulfilling lives.
- e. **Service:** *leaders are conscientious and dutiful*  
We demonstrate humility and self-control, supporting the structures, conventions and rules which safeguard quality. Our actions protect high-quality education.
- f. **Courage:** *leaders work courageously in the best interests of children and young people*  
We protect their safety and their right to a broad, effective and creative education. We hold one another to account courageously.
- g. **Optimism:** *leaders are positive and encouraging*  
Despite difficulties and pressures, we are developing excellent education to change the world for the better.