BELLERIVE FCJ CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Governors – 2026/2027

The purpose of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards, together with its Catholic ethos and the FCJ Values. The Governing Board aims to ensure that students are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and support their wellbeing.

The Governing Board has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic direction by:

- setting the vision, values and objectives for the school
- agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability by:

- appointing the Headteacher
- monitoring progress towards targets
- performance managing the Headteacher
- engaging with stakeholders; ensuring parents, pupils and the community are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensuring financial probity by:

- setting the budget
- monitoring spending against the budget
- ensuring value for money is obtained
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

For Governing Boards to carry out their role effectively, governors must be:

- prepared and equipped to take their responsibilities seriously;
- acknowledged as the accountable body by the lead professionals;
- supported by the appropriated authorities in that task and

- willing and able to monitor and review their own performance

As individuals on the board, we agree to the following:

Roles and Responsibilities

- No governors can act on his/her own without proper authority from the full Governing Board.
- All governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made.
- Although appointed through different routes (ie, parents, staff, Foundation or Co-opted), the overriding concern of all governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.
- We understand the purpose of the governing body and the role of the Headteacher as set out above.
- We are aware of and accept the Nolan seven principles of public life: see appendix.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the Governing Board has given us delegated authority to do so and, therefore, we will only speak on behalf of the Governing Board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- 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 government and will act appropriately.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Governing Board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the Governing Board meeting.
- 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 Catholic ethos and reputation of our school. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school, we will follow the procedures established by the Governing Board.

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a Governor involved the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the Governing Board and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- If acting as directors, we will not go beyond our duties or act outside of the powers of authority conveyed on us and acknowledge that, were we to do so, we could be held liable to the school and/or third parties.
- If acting as trustees on the Trust Board, we accept that we may be held responsible up to the limit in the Articles of Association, were the school to go bankrupt.

- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance in full why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- Our visits to school will be arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the Governing Board and agreed with the Headteacher.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development and will undertake relevant training.
- We are committed to actively supporting and challenging the Headteacher.

Relationships

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other Governors.
- We will support the Chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct, both at meetings and at all times.
- We are prepared to answer queries from other governors 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 Headteacher, staff and parents, the local authority and other relevant agencies and the community.

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 business arise outside of a Governing Board Meeting.
- We will not reveal the details of any Governing Board vote.

Conflicts of Interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest that we have in connection with the Governing Board's business in the Register of Business Interests in line with the school's Conflict of Interests Policy.
- We will declare any pecuniary interest – or a personal interest which could be perceived as a conflict of interest - in a matter under discussion at a meeting and offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's website.

BREACH OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

- If we believe this code has been breached, we will raise this issue with the Chair/ Vice Chairs and the Chair/Vice Chairs will investigate; the Governing Board will only use suspension/removal as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in more constructive ways.
- We understand that any allegation of a material breach of this code of practice by any Governor shall be raised at a meeting of the Governing Board and, if agreed, to be substantiated by a majority of governors, shall be minuted and can lead to consideration of suspension from the Governing Board.

This code of practice will be reviewed at the first Governing Board Meeting of each school year.

UNDERTAKING

As a member of the Governing Board I will always have the wellbeing of the students and the reputation of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will not say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Board, the Headteacher or the staff.

Signed: …….. **Print name: ……**

Date: ……..

APPENDIX

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 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 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.