

ROLE AND KEY PRINCIPLES OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR

The conduct and behaviour expected of Local Authority Governors is in line with the Code of Conduct for all governors but is underpinned by the following key principles pertaining to Local Authority Governors:

- to work as a member of a team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body;
- to act in the best interests of the school, having regard to the views and advice of the Local Authority (LA) and other interested parties (this may mean taking a balanced view of short and long term issues, school and community issues, borough wide issues affecting all schools in the borough etc). For example : Local Authority Governors may bring particular issues to the LA to seek its view or may receive briefings from the LA in relation to particular issues;
- to declare any pecuniary or conflicts of interest at each meeting;
- not to use the governor role for political gain;
- not to use political influence to promote his/her school as opposed to other schools in the borough for gain, or to the detriment of another school;
- to report any evidence of fraud, corruption or misconduct to an appropriate person or the Local Authority;
- to read briefings provided by the LA specifically for Local Authority governors;
- to attend briefings provided by the LA specifically for Local Authority governors;
- to familiarize themselves with LA policy and, where necessary, be able to explain LA policy to other governors on the governing body;
- to recognise that all governors are equal and have the same rights and responsibilities, unless particular responsibilities are delegated to them by the full governing body;
- to understand that no governor can act alone, except in exceptional circumstances prescribed in the Regulations i.e. emergency powers of the Chair, the power of the governing body rests in it acting as a single corporate body.

Note:

- (1) In order to properly fulfill your role as a Local Authority Governor and inform your decision making, it may be necessary for you to actively seek information and advice from the Local Authority. In those circumstances, you should contact the Authority's Governor Services Team who will help you to identify and contact the best person or team within the Authority to assist with your query.
- (2) Where reference is made in this document to 'Local Authority' governors this would also apply to governors appointed under the 2007 Constitution Regulations and who are referred to as Authority Governors.