

THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

The term 'governing board' in this document means the board of directors of a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

The term 'local governing body' means the local governing body within a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

The term 'local governors' in this document means governors of the local governing body.

As a local governing body, our overarching responsibility lies in ensuring that we comply with our legal and canonical duty to ensure that the Catholic character of the academy is preserved and developed and that this duty permeates everything that we do. However, all local governors of the local governing body have a duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the academy in order to fulfil the objects set out in its governing documents.

OUR THREE CORE STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS:

Further, in accordance with our legal obligations, we endeavour to operate at a strategic level, leaving the academy's senior leadership responsible and accountable for the operational day-to-day running of the academy. It is by achieving these aims that we can be sure that our academy has effective governance. Our core strategic functions as a local governing body, to the extent that any of these functions have been delegated to the local governing body, are in:

1. Ensuring clarity of Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the appropriate senior leadership within the academy to account for the educational performance and Catholic character of the academy and its pupils; and for the internal organisation, management and control of the academy, including performance management of staff; and
3. Ensuring that resourcing decisions are focused on priorities and reviewing the impact of resources on outcomes.

We understand that the Catholic Church expects Catholic schools to promote and uphold high standards, including academic standards as an integral part of its educational vision for the holistic formation of children and young people.

We understand that Canon 806§2 of the Code of Canon Law requires that Catholic schools are '...at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area' and that governors should be mindful of this requirement in all that they do.

We adhere to the Church's social teaching which is a rich treasury of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Several of the key themes that are at the heart of Catholic social tradition and which should permeate through our academy, are 1) life and dignity of the human person 2) call to family, community and participation 3) rights and responsibilities 4)

3 option for the poor and vulnerable 5) the dignity of work and the rights of workers 6) solidarity and 7) care for God's creation¹.

AS GOVERNORS, WE AGREE TO OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS FOLLOWS:

Role & Responsibilities

- We will preserve and develop the Catholic character of the academy and this responsibility will permeate throughout all of our actions within, and through all aspects of, the academy and the local community.

- We will ensure that the academy is conducted in accordance with its governing documents which includes the provisions of:
 - o Canon Law²
 - o The Curriculum Directory and Bishops' statements on religious education
 - o Any diocesan directives relating to schools

- We will conduct the academy in accordance with its Articles of Association and any Scheme of Delegation adopted by the Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

- We will support and implement the policies and procedures of the Diocese, including the Bishop's policies on education, including religious education, any admissions guidance issued by the Diocese, and the expectations of the diocesan bishops collectively, specifically the Bishops' Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools.

- We will respond to the needs of the Catholic community as a whole as represented by the Bishop of Nottingham, complying in all respects with diocesan requirements.

- We will protect, promote and serve the Diocese of Nottingham in the ministry of our role as governors faithfully and in particular in compliance with diocesan protocols for a committed working relationship between the Diocese and the Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

- We will consider not only the interests of the academy, but the interests of the Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, other Catholic academies and of Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Nottingham.

- We will undertake to discharge our duties as governors with due care and diligence.

- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools and academies.

- We will never undertake actions incompatible with the expectation that Governors will be supportive of the Diocese.

1 <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>

2 This means the Canon Law of the Catholic Church from time to time in force, which includes the 1983 Code of Canon Law, and any Particular Law such as legislation of the Bishops' Conference, directives of the diocesan bishop and legislation of the school's religious order (if any).

- We will attend relevant training including diocesan and CMAT training; governor induction and continuing professional development training, as required by the Diocese and the CMAT.
- We understand the purpose of the governing board and our role as local governors on the local governing body and the role of senior leadership.
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the local governing body has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the local governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the local governing body or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the local governing body meetings.
- 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 on behalf of the governing board.
- We will encourage transparency and will act appropriately.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the academy we will follow the procedures established by the responsible body.
- We will actively support and challenge the senior leadership.
- We will adhere to the Nolan principles

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office as a local governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the local governing body, and accept our fair share of responsibilities.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will get to know our academy well and positively respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in academy activities.
- We will visit our academy, with all visits arranged in advance with the staff and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board.

- We will evaluate our effectiveness as a local governing body by way of completing a skills audit and a self-evaluation form on an annual basis.
- We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for continuous training and development as required by the NRCDES and the CMAT, and will undertake that relevant training.
- We accept that in the interests of transparency, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the local governing body, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on our academy's website and anything else as required by law.