

EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNORS

Governors are expected to have regard to the Code of Conduct at section 4.0 of the Standing Orders, which sets out standards for their conduct towards each other and to the School. In addition, the Governing Board believes that effective governance is impeded where governors do not sufficiently engage with the life of the School and participate fully and widely in governing Board activities. Accordingly, whilst appreciating that the ability of individual governors to participate can vary from time to time without necessarily undermining the contribution they make overall, the Governing Board believes that effective governance occurs when governors engage with the life of the School and participate fully and widely in governing board activities.

Governing Board meetings

School Governing Board meetings normally take place five times a year and the Governing Board expect a governor to attend, at least, the majority of Governing Board meetings. The Governing Board would expect that the only reason governors would not attend would be serious personal or professional commitments which could not be rearranged.

Committees and ad hoc working parties

So far as standing committees are concerned, the Governing Board attaches the same importance as it does to all Governing Board meetings, and, subject to the fact that from time to time these meetings may take place more frequently, and therefore be more demanding on governors' time, the principles set out above should apply.

As to more informal meetings, this will largely depend upon what has been agreed between members of the relevant committee/working party, but it is noted that these meetings are likely to be more easily organised at members' convenience. It should therefore be easier for governors to attend them.

Undertaking tasks on behalf of the Governing Board

From time to time, governors undertake specific tasks to assist the Governing Board in the discharge of its functions. No governor will be expected to do so unless they have expressed a willingness to be involved in that way. If a governor does undertake such activity, naturally it is important that they should be able to report back by the agreed date. If for any reason that is not possible, the sooner that the Governing Board is aware of this the better. This will assist in planning. Governors should think carefully before agreeing to undertake a particular activity to a particular timescale and the Governing Board must ensure that its expectations of governors are realistic.

Preparation for meetings

Subject to the efficient and timely preparation of papers for governors' attention, it is expected that governors will attend relevant meetings having familiarised themselves with the papers which will be the subject of their discussions. Again, it is recognised that individual

circumstances will vary. However, governors should endeavour to avoid raising time consuming issues which might have been avoided by appropriate pre-planning, including reading papers. If, on occasion, upon reading the papers, governors feel that they would like further factual information in order to enable them to discuss the matter properly, it would be helpful if they could notify the school in advance of the information required so that it can be available at the meeting.

Attendance at school events

It is expected that during the school year governors will attend a range of school events, such as Awards Evening, Concerts and School Productions. The Governing Board would find it surprising if a governor did not attend a number of these in the normal course of a school year.