

Education Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee

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PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

FOR GOVERNORS

OF SCHOOLS IN WALES

NOVEMBER 2005

Governors of schools in Wales are responsible for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. From 2006 governing bodies will also have an explicit legal responsibility to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the school's pupils. In order that governing bodies may discharge their responsibilities and duties effectively and efficiently, governors should:

- ensure that their actions reflect the considered, best interests of the school and its pupils;
- attend governing body meetings regularly;
- on appointment avail themselves of the opportunity to attend induction training provided by the local education authority or the school;
- on appointment, familiarise themselves with work of the school and keep this knowledge up to date;
- maintain their knowledge of current education policy, regulations and guidance and extend their skills by participating in training programmes including whole governing body training and other events;
- demonstrate a commitment to equality of opportunity and reflect this in developing and applying the policies the school is required to have in respect of disability discrimination, race relations and sex discrimination;
- act as a critical friend towards those with professional responsibilities in the school, bearing in mind the governing body's own responsibility to promote high standards of educational achievement;
- be conscious of, and act within, the limits of the responsibilities of the governing body and when necessary, seek and give due consideration to professional information, advice and guidance;
- respect the responsibility of the headteacher for the day- to-day decisions for the management of the school;
- observe collective responsibility by supporting, once determined by democratic means, the decisions of the governing body;
- respect the governing body's right to deem certain matters to be confidential, restricting discussion of

such matters, whether inside or outside governing body meetings, solely to fellow governors and in appropriate cases solely to discussion within governing body committees;

- develop with colleagues on the governing body, a clear vision for the school;
- focus their contribution to governing body decisions upon what is in the best interests of pupils, and be conscious that the welfare of pupils should always come first in terms of child protection, health and safety and helping each child to develop their full potential;
- encourage and participate in systems which provide for open and effective communication, helping to establish a clear vision of the school's development;
- be aware that all governors are equal and respect others' views and behave accordingly in dealings with fellow governors;
- be aware of their accountability to parents and others in the local community and seek to devise effective dialogue with all those interested in the conduct and standards of the school;
- observe all protocols and procedures agreed by the governing body;
- be open, honest, objective, fair and impartial and prepared to confront the personal prejudices that may hinder informed decision-making including conflicts of interest.