



THE SCHOOLS OF KING EDWARD THE SIXTH IN BIRMINGHAM CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS

INTRODUCTION

The Governors of the Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham (“the Foundation”) are responsible for the overall strategic management and development of the charity. The Governors are selected from a wide range of backgrounds, and the aim is to achieve a balanced Board with a core of individuals with educational, legal, accountancy, finance, property management, business and marketing backgrounds. All share a genuine commitment to the future of the Foundation and its Schools. Governors’ knowledge of the Schools springs from close association and their contribution lies in bringing considerable professional expertise to bear on relevant aspects of the Schools’ strategic thinking and development.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Governors should act at all times with honesty and integrity. Each Governor has an important role in supporting and encouraging the senior staff, although prime responsibility for developing the partnership rests with the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Standing Committees. As the employers of all of the staff, it is important for the Governors to meet staff wherever possible. Regular attendance at meetings and major functions is important, and Governors need to be prepared to devote the time and energy that is necessary to carry out their role and to develop understanding of the Schools. They should arrange their visits in advance via the Chief Master/ Principal.

Individual Governors should express their personal views within meetings; but once a decision has been reached, they are bound by collective decision-making. They need to take care of breaches of confidentiality and to avoid undermining the senior staff, since their relationship can only flourish if it is based upon mutual respect and collaboration. They should only speak on behalf of the Board if they have been

specifically authorised to do so – a function that normally falls to the Chair or Deputy Chair. Conflicts of interest must be declared in advance.

Qualities of integrity, impartiality and objectivity are important. The Board under the leadership of the Chair should be transparent and open as possible, with all members conscious of their responsibilities and of the clear distinction between roles of trustees and of paid employees.