**The Link Academy Trust**

# CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GOVERNORS

**INTRODUCTION**

The following is not a definitive statement of responsibilities but is concerned with the common understanding of broad principles by which governors will operate.

**The Governors of the Local Boards for Totnes, Newton & Teign and Woodleigh Hubs accepted the following principles following Academy conversion 2016**

**General**

* We have responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the Trust operates;
* We recognise that the Heads of School are responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the Academies and the implementation of the curriculum;
* We accept that all governors have equal status, and although appointed by different groups (e.g. parents, staff,) our overriding concern will be the welfare of the Academies as a whole;
* We have no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing board or board of directors has given us delegated authority to do so;
* We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for the employment of staff, we will fulfil all that is reasonably expected of a good employer;
* We will encourage open government and should be seen to be doing so;
* We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect other schools.

**Commitment**

* We acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy;
* We will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the governing board, attend regularly, and accept our fair share of responsibilities;
* We will get to know the Academies well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities;
* We will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for training and development.

**Relationships**

* We will strive to work as a team;
* We will seek to develop effective working relationships with the Heads of School, staff, parents, the board of directors and other relevant agencies (including the Diocesan Authorities) and the community.

**Confidentiality**

* We will observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the governing board, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students;
* As a matter of trust we will not discuss the views of fellow governors with members of the public outside our meetings;
* We will exercise the greatest prudence if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue affecting the Academies arises outside the governing board.

**Conduct**

* We will encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decision made by the local board or its delegated agents;
* We will only speak or act on behalf of the local board when we have been specifically authorised to do so;
* In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the Trust schools we will follow the procedures established by the local board;
* Our visits to the Academies will be undertake within the framework established by the governing board and agreed with the Trust Board and CEO;
* In discharging our duties we will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of the Trust.

This document was reviewed and approved at the meeting of the Local board on 17th October 2018

Signed (chair of Governors).............................................