

Governors Code of Conduct

I will respect and uphold the values of TreeHouse School and Ambitious about Autism.

General

- I will act within the governing document of TreeHouse School and Ambitious about Autism and the law, and abide by the policies and procedures of the organisation. This includes having a knowledge of the contents of the governing document and relevant policies and procedures.
- I will support the objects and mission of TreeHouse School, championing it, using any skills or knowledge I have to further that mission and seeking expert advice where appropriate.
- I will be an active governor, making my skills, experience and knowledge available to TreeHouse School and seeking to do what additional work I can outside meetings, including sitting on sub-committees.
- I will respect organisational, Governing Body and individual confidentiality, while never using confidentiality as an excuse not to disclose matters that should be transparent and open.
- I will develop and maintain a sound and up-to-date knowledge of TreeHouse School and its environment. This will include an understanding of how TreeHouse School operates, the social, political and economic environment in which it operates and the nature and extent of its work.
- I will use TreeHouse School's resources responsibly, and when claiming expenses will do so in line with organisational procedures.
- I will seek to be accountable for my actions as a governor of TreeHouse School, and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- I accept my responsibility to ensure that TreeHouse School is well run and will raise issues and questions in an appropriate and sensitive way to ensure that this is the case.

Managing Interests

- I will not gain materially or financially from my involvement with TreeHouse School unless specifically authorised to do so.
- I will act in the best interests of TreeHouse School as a whole, and not as a representative of any group – considering what is best for TreeHouse School and its present and future beneficiaries and avoiding bringing TreeHouse School into disrepute.
- Unless authorised, I will not put myself in a position where my personal interests conflict with my duty to act in the interests of the organisation. Where there is a conflict of interest, I will ensure that this is managed effectively in line with the organisation's policy. I understand that a failure to declare a conflict of interest may be considered to be a breach of this code.

Meetings

- I will attend all appropriate meetings and other appointments at TreeHouse School or give apologies.
- If I cannot attend a meeting, I will inform the chair of that meeting and provide my feedback on the papers.
- If I cannot regularly attend meetings, I will consider whether there are other ways I can engage with TreeHouse School.
- I will prepare fully for all meetings and work for the organisation. This will include reading papers, querying anything I do not understand, thinking through issues before meetings and completing any tasks assigned to me in the agreed time.
- I will actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings; contributing in a considered and constructive way, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and avoiding conflict.
- I will participate in collective decision making, accept a majority decision of the board and will not act individually unless specifically authorised to do so.

Governance

- I will actively contribute towards improving the governance of the Governing Body, participating in induction and training and sharing ideas for improvement with the board.
- I will help to identify good candidates for governors at TreeHouse School and, with my fellow governors, will appoint new governors in accordance with agreed selection criteria.

Relations with others

- I will endeavour to work considerately and respectfully with all those I come into contact with at TreeHouse School and Ambitious about Autism. I will respect diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoid giving offence.
- I recognise that the roles of governors, volunteers and staff of TreeHouse School and Ambitious about Autism are different, and I will seek to understand and respect the difference between these roles.
- Where I also volunteer with the organisation or utilise the charity's services, I will maintain the separation of my role as a governor and as a volunteer or service user.
- I will seek to support and encourage all those I come into contact with at TreeHouse School. In particular I recognise my responsibility to support the chair and senior staff members.
- I will not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so. Any public comments I make about TreeHouse School will be considered and in line with organisational policy, whether I make them as an individual or as a governor.

Leaving the Governing Body

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put in motion that may result in my being asked to resign from the Governing Body.
- Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. In the event that I am asked to resign from the Governing Body, I will accept the majority decision of the Governing Body in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.
- If I wish to cease being a governor of TreeHouse School at any time, I will inform the chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for leaving.

Signed

Name

Date