



CHELMSFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS

Broomfield Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1RW

GOVERNING BODY STANDING ORDERS – Approved 15th October 2019

1. Chair and Vice Chair

- 1.1. At the last meeting in each school year (or when the term of office is due) the Governing Body will elect from its number a Chair and Vice Chair for the next academic year. The term of office for each post will be one year and the term of office will end on the date of the first meeting of the Governing Body after the first anniversary of his/her election or at the end of his/her term of office as a governor, whichever date is earlier. The Governing Body cannot conduct its business without an elected Chair. A governor who is paid to work at the school is not eligible to be Chair or Vice Chair of that school.
 - Eligible governors will indicate their intention to stand as Chair or Vice Chair to the Clerk of the Governing Body by e-mail or verbally before the meeting. If no nominations are received for either post, governors may put their names forward at the meeting.
 - If an election is required, governors will cast their vote by an electronic voting system sent directly to the Clerk.
 - If a vote is required at a Governing Body meeting, the Clerk will chair the meeting during this item, but may not vote. If the election is contested, the candidates must withdraw from the meeting during the vote and may not vote themselves. The election will be held by secret ballot.
- 1.2. The Chair will conduct all meetings of the Governing Body except that in his/her absence, the Chair will be taken by the Vice Chair.
- 1.3. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent from a meeting, the Governing Body will elect a chair for that meeting.
- 1.4. If the Chair resigns, or has to relinquish the office for any reason, the Vice Chair will act as chair until a successor is appointed at the next meeting of the Governing Body.
- 1.5. If the Vice Chair resigns, or has to relinquish the office for any reason, a successor will be appointed at the next meeting of the Governing Body.
- 1.6. If both the Chair and Vice Chair resign, or have to relinquish their offices for any reason, the Governing Body will hold a special meeting within 28 days to elect their successors, such meeting to be chaired by the Clerk to the Governors until the Chair is elected.
- 1.7. The Governing Body can remove the Chair from office. A motion to remove the Chair or Vice Chair must be an agenda item for a Governing Body meeting and the agenda must be circulated to Governing Body members seven days in advance of the meeting. The governor proposing the removal must state his/her reasons for doing so at the meeting. The Chair or Vice Chair must be given the opportunity to make a statement in response before he/she withdraws from the meeting and the Governing Body votes on the proposal to remove the Chair or Vice Chair from office.
- 1.8. The Chair of Governors will hold the post of Chair of the Management Committee and may not hold the chairmanship of any other Governing Body committee whilst in office.

2. Terms of Office for Categories of Governors

- 2.1 The terms of office for all categories of governor will be four years. Governors will relinquish their position at the end of the academic term following the 4th anniversary of their appointment. Parent governors are required to relinquish their position at the end of the term of office during which their daughter leaves the school.

2.2 The maximum number of consecutive terms of office is three, ie 12 years, unless continuation is approved by the Full Governing Body after a secret ballot.

3. Calendar of Meetings

- 3.1. The Governing Body will meet at least three times a year, preferably termly.
- 3.2. The Governing Body will plan its full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings on an annual basis at the final Summer Term Governing Body meeting of the preceding academic year. Committee meetings will normally be held before the Governing Body meeting each term so that committee business can be reported to the Governing Body. Working groups are convened as required.

3.3. **Governing Body and committee meetings are usually held face-to-face at the School however, in exceptional circumstances, meetings may also be held remotely via teleconferencing or the internet with the permission of the relevant meeting chair.**

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4. Timing of Meetings

- 4.1. Meetings will start at times which are acceptable to the Governing Body and will be limited to two hours duration, except in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.2. Where the business has not been completed within the agreed time, those governors present may resolve to continue the meeting in order to deal with the business notified on the agenda.
- 4.3. A meeting may be discontinued at any time if the Governing Body so resolves.

5. Quorum

- 5.1. The quorum for any Governing Body meeting and vote must be one half (rounded up to a whole number) of the complete membership of the Governing Body; not including any governor vacancies.
- 5.2. A meeting will not take place if it is inquorate, or will be discontinued if it becomes inquorate.
- 5.3. If a meeting is inquorate or discontinued for any reason, any items remaining of the agenda will be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting.

6. Clerking

- 6.1. The Governing Body must appoint a Clerk to the Governing Body and each of its committees. Governors, associate members and the Headteacher cannot be Clerk to the Governing Body. The Headteacher cannot be appointed as Clerk to a committee.
- 6.2. Full Governing Body meetings, statutory meetings and non-statutory committee meetings will be clerked the appointed Clerk to the Governing Body.
- 6.3. If the Clerk does not attend a meeting the governors present at the meeting can appoint a member of the Governing Body or committee (but not the Headteacher) to act as clerk for that meeting.
- 6.4. The Governing Body can remove the Clerk from office by resolution at a Governing Body meeting.
- 6.5. The Clerk is permitted to record meetings for the purposes of minute-writing, subject to the agreement and prior knowledge of all people present. All recordings will be deleted after the formal approval of the minutes.

7. Associate Members

- 7.1. Governing bodies can benefit from being able to draw on expertise and experience from outside their formal governor membership. The Governing Body can appoint associate members to serve on one or more Governing Body committees and attend full Governing Body meetings.
- 7.2. Associate members are appointed as members of committees established by the Governing Body, or as members of the Governing Body and one or more of its committees. Associate members who are not members of the school staff are appointed for a period of one year and can be re-appointed at the end of their term of office. Associate members who are members of the school staff are appointed for the duration of their

employment at the School. Associate members are not governors and they are not recorded in the Articles of Association.

- 7.3 Associate members do not have the right to vote at Governing Body meetings. The Governing Body can give limited voting rights to associate members on committees at the time of appointment.

8. Convening Meetings

- 8.1. All meetings will be convened by the Clerk, in accordance with arrangements made by the Governing Body, but subject to:
- a) any direction from the Chair where a matter is urgent
 - b) any requisition signed by three governors.

9. Notice of Meetings

- 9.1. Written notice of meetings, together with the agenda, will be sent to arrive seven clear days before the meeting, except where the Chair calls an urgent meeting at short notice, to the governors by e-mail or via the school, as per individual arrangement.
- 9.2. Non-receipt of notice of a meeting will not invalidate the meeting.
- 9.3. Notices of meetings and the accompanying agenda, will be made available at the School, at all reasonable times, for inspection by anyone wishing to see them.

10. Agenda

- 10.1. The agenda will be organised by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and the chairs of the standing committees.
- 10.2. Any governor may place an item on the agenda by contacting the Clerk and with the agreement of the Chair and Headteacher.
- 10.3. Whenever possible, supporting papers which inform agenda items will be sent to governors to arrive seven clear days before the meeting with the agenda.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 Items to be raised under “Any Other Business” must be notified to the Chair and/or Clerk to Governors in advance of the meeting.

12. Attendance

- 12.1. A record will be kept in the minutes of all persons attending a meeting of the Governing Body or any of its committees.
- 12.2. The time of arrival and/or departure of any governor not in attendance throughout any meeting will be recorded in the minutes.
- 12.3. Apologies for absence will be recorded (when submitted). The decision to accept or not to accept the apology will be recorded.

13. Minutes of Meetings

- 13.1. The Clerk will ensure that minutes of meetings will be drawn up on consecutively numbered loose-leaf pages, each page initialed by the Chair signing them as a true record.
- 13.2. Any dissenting views will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, if that is the wish of one or more governors present.

- 13.3. Action will be taken on the basis of decisions and need not await the approval of the minutes of the next meeting.
- 13.4. Within 14 days of the meeting, the draft minutes will be sent by the Clerk to the Chair for checking.
- 13.5. Copies of the approved draft minutes will be sent to all members of the Governing Body within 28 days of the meeting.
- 13.6. The minutes of each meeting will be considered for approval or amendment at the next meeting and, once approved by the Governing Body as a true record, will be signed and dated by the Chair.
- 13.7. Those matters which the Governing Body determines shall remain confidential will be minuted separately and such minutes will not be made publicly available.
- 13.8. Approved draft minutes, and subsequently the approved minutes, will be made available at the School, at all reasonable times, for inspection by anyone wishing to see them.

14. Correspondence

- 14.1. All incoming correspondence, excluding any concerning a complaint, is for the attention of the whole Governing Body. Significant items will be presented to each meeting of the Governing Body, including any upon which the Chair has already taken urgent action, so that the need for, and the nature of, any action may be decided or confirmed.

15. Information and Advice

- 15.1. The Headteacher has a statutory duty to keep the Governing Body fully informed, and will present a written report to each termly meeting of the Governing Body.
- 15.2. Where important information required by the Governing Body is given orally, it will be recorded in the minutes in appropriate detail.
- 15.3. Where information required by the Governing Body is not readily available, reasonable time will be given for its production.
- 15.4. Where expertise is needed but not available within the Governing Body, the Governing Body may consider co-opting an appropriate non-governor.

16. Discussion and Debate

- 16.1. The Chair will ensure that meetings are run effectively, focusing on priorities and making the best use of time available, and ensuring that all members have an equal opportunity to participate in discussion and decision making.
- 16.2. The Governing Body will receive, and may debate at the discretion of the Chair, decisions on matters which it has delegated to a committee or individual. Decisions will be recorded in the minutes.
- 16.3. Recommendations received from working groups will be recorded in the minutes, together with any related Governing Body resolution.

17. Decision Making

- 17.1. Members of the Governing Body recognise that all decisions must be made by the Governing Body unless an individual or a committee has been delegated to deal with a specific issue.
- 17.2. Decisions will be made by a simple majority of those governors present and when voting, by show of hands unless any one governor, or more, requires a secret ballot.
- 17.3. If there is a tied vote at the end of a discussion, the Chair may vote a second time to determine the issue.
- 17.4. A decision of the Governing Body is binding on all its members.

17.5. Decisions of the Governing Body may only be amended or rescinded at a subsequent meeting of the Governing Body when the proposal to amend or rescind appears as a specific agenda item.

17.6. When circumstances require it, decisions may be made by Governor email approval, organized and recorded by the Clerk and subject to the receipt of full explanatory information or relevant documentation. All email approvals will be formally ratified by the relevant committee at the next available meeting.

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18. Urgent action

18.1. The Chair, or in his or her absence the Vice Chair, has the authority to take urgent action between meetings when:

- a. A delay in dealing with the matter would be seriously detrimental to a pupil, her parents, or a member of staff, and
- b. A meeting could not be called in sufficient time to deal with the matter.

18.2. If any urgent action is taken by the Chair between meetings, the facts will be reported to the next meeting of the Governing Body.

19. Public Statements

19.1. Public statements will be made only by the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

20. Access to Meetings of the Governing Body

20.1. Governors, the Headteacher, associate members and the Clerk have the right to attend Governing Body meetings. Associate members may be excluded from any part of a meeting when an item concerns an individual member of staff or pupil.

20.2. The Governing Body will decide who, other than a governor, the Headteacher or the Clerk, may be admitted to a meeting and which of its meetings, if any, will be open to parents/the public.

20.3. If a meeting is to be opened to parents/the public, reasonable notice will be given.

21. Pecuniary and Personal Interest

21.1. The Governing Body will maintain a register of the business interests of its members in the form of consecutively numbered loose leaf sheets, each sheet being a statement completed and signed by the relevant governor, and as a composite register with the agreement of the governors. All business interests will be published on the School web site.

21.2. Governors will report any personal business or other personal interest plus those of any close family members, whether that interest has previously been registered or not.

21.3. A governor must withdraw from a meeting, if he/she (or a close relative or partner):

- stands to gain financially from a matter under consideration.
- has a personal interest in a matter under consideration.
- is a relative of a pupil, a parent or an employee being discussed.
- is a School employee, other than the Headteacher, and the pay or performance of School employees is under discussion.
- is the Headteacher and the pay or performance of the Headteacher is under discussion.

21.4. When a committee is considering:

- a) disciplinary action against an employee or against a pupil
- b) a matter arising from an alleged incident involving a pupil

a governor who has declared a personal interest may attend the meeting to give evidence if he/she has made relevant accusations, or is a witness in the case.

22. Suspension of Governors

- 22.1 In certain prescribed circumstances the Governing Body can decide to suspend a governor for a period of up to six months. The Governing Body can only suspend a governor if one or more of the following grounds apply:
- a) the governor is paid to work in the school and is the subject of disciplinary proceedings in relation to his/her employment; or
 - b) the governor is the subject of any court or tribunal proceedings, the outcome of which may be that he/she is disqualified from continuing to hold office as a governor under Schedule 6 of the Constitution Regulations; or
 - c) the governor has acted in a way that is inconsistent with the School's ethos or with the religious character and has brought or is likely to bring the School or the Governing Body or his office into disrepute; or
 - d) the governor is in breach of his duty of confidentiality to the School or the staff or to the pupils.
- 22.2 A Governing Body can vote to suspend a governor on any of the above grounds, but it is recommended that suspension is only used as a last resort.
- 22.3 Any motion to suspend must be specified as an agenda item of a meeting for which at least seven days' notice must be given. Before the Governing Body votes to suspend a governor, the governor proposing their suspension must give their reasons for proposing the suspension. The governor who is proposed for the suspension must be given the opportunity to respond before he/she withdraws from the meeting and a vote is taken.
- 22.4 A governor who is suspended must be given notice of any meetings and must be sent agendas, reports and papers for any meetings during their suspension.

23. Complaints and Staff Discipline

- 23.1. The Governing Body will establish procedures for dealing with general complaints and will abide by the LA's curriculum complaints arrangements.
- 23.2. The Governing Body will establish procedures for dealing with staff disciplinary matters and staff grievances.

24. Delegation of Functions

- 24.1 A Governing Body can delegate any of its statutory functions to a committee, a governor or to the Headteacher, subject to prescribed restrictions. The Governing Body must review the delegation of functions annually. The Governing Body will remain accountable for any decisions taken, including those relating to functions delegated to a committee or an individual. The Governing Body stresses that no action may be taken by an individual governor unless authority to do so has been delegated formally by resolution of the Governing Body.
- 24.2. In order to ensure that the most efficient use of time and resources, and in some cases to ensure absolute propriety, the Governing Body will, where it is proper and appropriate to do so:
- delegate work to committees with the power to make decisions on behalf of the Governing Body.
 - delegate work to individual members of the Governing Body and/or the Headteacher, if not a governor.
 - set up working groups to provide information and/or make recommendations to the Governing Body.

25. Committees

- 25.1. Committees, if any, will have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Governing Body strictly in accordance with the terms of delegation.

- 25.2. When establishing committees the Governing Body, in addition to ensuring that at least three governors (not including the Headteacher) are appointed to each, will:
- determine the membership and the method of appointing the Chair;
 - establish and record terms of reference;
 - allow the committees to determine their own timetables within given limits;
 - determine procedures for reporting back;
 - review the need for, and the membership of committees annually.
- 25.3. The Headteacher has the right to attend any committee meetings subject to the statutory rules on withdrawal. In the event of her absence, the Head may send a member of SLT to a committee meeting as her representative, subject to the prior agreement of the chair of the committee.
- 25.4. The Governing Body will establish statutory committees as required to consider:
- Staff discipline and staff discipline appeals (appeal committees will have no fewer members than the relevant “first” committee
 - Student discipline and student admissions to the Sixth Form,
 - Staff pay and staff appeals matters
- 25.5. No governor who served on the relevant first committee or had any previous involvement with the matter under appeal may serve on an appeal committee.
- 25.6. All committees with delegated powers will report in writing to the next meeting of the Governing Body about any decisions made or action taken.
- 25.7. As for the Governing Body, all committees with delegated powers will follow the same procedures for notice of meetings, the keeping of minutes and withdrawing from meetings as for the full Governing Body meetings and copies of the minutes will be presented to the next meeting of the Governing Body for information.

26. Working Groups

- 26.1. In establishing working groups the Governing Body will:
- determine the membership, including non-governors, and the method of appointing the Chairman,
 - establish and record terms of reference,
 - allow working groups to determine their own timetables within given limits,
 - determine procedures for reporting back.
- 26.2. The Headteacher has the right to attend any meeting of any working group. In the event of her absence, the Head may send a member of SLT to any working group meeting as her representative, subject to the prior agreement of the chair of the working group.
- 26.3. Working groups established for specific purposes will be discontinued when their work has been completed.
- 26.4. All working groups will present a written or oral report, including recommendations where appropriate, to the next meeting of the Governing Body.