



BRADGATE
Education Partnership

Stronger Together

Governance Code of Conduct

Trust Board and School Local Advisory Boards

2023-24

Approved: Trust Board – 14/09/23
Review Date: September 2024
Responsible Officer: Governance Lead

Ambitious
Collaborative
Ethical



BRADGATE
Education Partnership

MISSION:

Through strong collaboration between our schools, Bradgate Education Partnership is committed to providing an ambitious and inclusive education for all.

We want our children and young people to realise their full potential academically, socially and personally. We celebrate the distinctive ethos of each individual school. We ensure that all who are part of our Trust have a deep sense of belonging and a supportive opportunity to grow.



Stronger Together



VALUES:



Ambitious

We aim high and are aspirational for all.



Collaborative

We work closely together to encourage, support, challenge and share.



Ethical

We treat everyone fairly, within a culture of kindness and respect.

VISION:



PUPILS

All our pupils are equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to thrive in life and make a positive difference.



SCHOOLS

All our schools provide a safe and happy space where pupils study an ambitious curriculum which unlocks their personal potential so that they achieve exceptional outcomes.



WORKFORCE

All staff have positive impact in their roles whilst feeling supported and valued both personally and professionally.



COMMUNITY

All our schools embrace the local area they serve within a deeply embedded culture of community partnership.



WIDER WORLD

All our pupils and staff understand, respect and embrace the diversity of the wider world in which they live.



SUSTAINABILITY

Across our partnership, everything we do is aligned to meet the needs of the present without compromising a sustainable future.

Tel: 0116 478 3426

bepschools.org



Code of Conduct

Bradgate Education Partnership Multi Academy Trust Board (“Trust Board”) and Trust School Local Advisory Boards (“LABs”)

2023-24

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment required from trustees and committee members in order for the Trust Board and LABs to properly carry out their work within the school/s and the community. It applies to all levels of school governance.

Once approved by the Trust Board, the Code will apply to all trustees, LAB and committee members.

This Code should be read in conjunction with the relevant law, Bradgate Education Partnership Trust Articles of Association, the agreed Trust Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference.

Trustees: We agree to follow the [charity governance code](#)

LAB members: We recognise and support the principles set out in the [charity governance code](#)



We agree to abide by the Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.



We will apply the highest standards and will:

1. act within our powers
2. promote the success of the trust
3. exercise independent judgement
4. exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
5. avoid conflicts of interest
6. not accept benefits from third parties
7. declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements

As advisors / trustees, we will focus on our core governance functions (with reference to Scheme of Delegation):

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
4. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

As individual board members, we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day to day management.
2. We will fulfil our role and responsibilities as set out in our Scheme of Delegation.
3. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of the Trust and our schools.
4. We agree to adhere to school/trust policies and procedures.
5. We shall fully cooperate with individual requests that are necessary to ensure organisational compliance, such as disclosure and barring or right to work checks.
6. We will work collectively for the benefit of the schools.



7. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
8. We will consider how our decisions may affect the schools and local community.
9. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
10. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
11. We will only speak or act on behalf of the trust board if we have the authority to do so.
12. Trustees: We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
13. When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
14. We will strive to uphold the reputation of the Trust and our schools in our private communications (including on social media).
15. We will have regard to our responsibilities under [The Equality Act](#) and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.
16. Local Advisory Boards: We will act as the local ambassadors for our trust.

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
4. We will get to know the school/s well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
5. We will visit the school/s and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.



6. When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
7. We will participate in induction training, prioritise training in required areas (such as safeguarding) and commit to developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Build and maintain relationships

1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community/ communities.
2. Local Advisory Board members: We will:
 - a. champion the voices of our school community and stakeholders.
 - b. establish effective working relationships with trustees.
3. Trustees: We will:
 - a. engage with and be accountable to those supporting at local level.
 - b. respect the remit of, and engage constructively with, relevant authorities, sector bodies and other trusts.
4. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
5. We will work to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally.
6. We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
2. We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.



Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business and these will be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.
2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school/trust's website.
5. We will act as a trustee/LAB member; not as a representative of any group.
6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
7. We accept that information relating to board and LAB members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database of governors (Get Information About Schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

Adopted by: Bradgate Education Partnership Trust Board on 14/09/23

The Trust Board agrees that this code of conduct will be reviewed annually, upon significant changes to the law and policy or as needed and it will be endorsed by the full board.
