

GOVERNING BOARD STANDING ORDERS NIDDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2018

Current legislation gives to governing bodies the flexibility to decide their own procedures unless there is a specific legislative requirement to operate in a particular way.

Whilst most governing bodies conduct business in a relatively informal way there is much benefit in having a framework to formalise the business of the governing body.

Standing orders provide such a framework and can avoid disputes arising by procedures and conventions having been agreed previously by the governing body. Standing orders cannot replace regulations or statutory guidance but are additional and supplementary to them.

Set out in this booklet are example standing orders. Governing bodies should use the examples as a basis for discussion and take into account their own individual circumstances and adapt the standing orders as appropriate. Those points shown in bold italics are statutory requirements and cannot be adapted.

The advice contained in this booklet succeeds any previous advice on any matter detailed in this booklet.

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Standing orders for procedural workings of the governing body of Nidderdale High School (adopted October 2018)

1. Meetings of the governing body

The governing body shall meet a minimum of 4 times each school year.

2. Chair and vice-chair – term of Office

The chair and vice-chair shall have a term of office of 2 years. The term shall begin at the first governing body meeting of the autumn term at which the chair and vice-chair are normally elected and shall end at the first meeting following the 2nd anniversary of their election. In the event of the chair and/or vice-chair ceasing to occupy their post(s) part way through their respective term(s) of office then their successor(s) shall serve out the remainder of their predecessor's term.

When the office of chair or vice-chair becomes vacant the governing body must elect a new chair or vice-chair at the next meeting. If the chair is absent from a meeting, or if the chair is vacant, the vice-chair will act as chair for all purposes.

3. Election of chair and vice-chair

The clerk shall take the chair for the item dealing with the election of the chair and, in the event of a failure to elect a chair, for the item dealing with the election of the vice-chair. In the event of the governing body failing to elect a chair or a vice-chair the governing body shall elect a chair for the meeting. In the event of the governing body failing to elect a chair for the meeting then the meeting shall stand adjourned and the clerk, acting in consultation with the immediate past chair and the head teacher, shall convene a further meeting within 28 days of the adjournment.

4. Election of chair and vice-chair – procedure

All governors other than those who are under 18, pupils or paid to work at the school are eligible to stand as the chair or vice-chair of governors.

At this school the term of office will be two years and until the first meeting of the governing body in the autumn term following second anniversary of his/her election

Where a vacancy arises before the end of an incumbent's term the governing body will elect one of their number to fill that vacancy at their next meeting.

The appointment of a chair and vice-chair must be made at a quorate meeting of the full governing body. The clerk will chair that part of the agenda. Candidates must withdraw during discussion and vote.

Election procedures.

- a) The clerk to governors will invite nominations in advance of an election date. Governors may self-nominate.
- b) The agenda for the meeting will include "Appointment of a chair and vice-chair" as separate items.
- c) Where there are no advance nominations the clerk will invite nominations at the meeting.
- d) If more than one candidate, they will be invited to make a short statement before withdrawing.
- e) Voting will be by secret ballot.
- f) In the event of a tie a decision will be made by repeat ballot.

5. Annual calendar of meetings and business

At the first meeting of the autumn term the governing body shall approve a calendar of governing body and committee meetings and of planned business for the ensuing year and the clerk shall, within 14 days, of the meeting provide a copy of the calendar to all members of the governing body.

6. Notice of meetings and agenda

Every member of the governing body shall receive the following ***at least seven clear days in advance of a meeting:***

- ***written notice of the meeting;***
- ***a copy of the agenda for the meeting;***
- ***a copy of any reports or papers to be considered at the meeting.***

This standing order shall not apply where the chair of the governing body so determines on the ground that there are matters demanding urgent consideration. In that case the written notice of the meeting shall state that fact and the agenda, reports and other papers to be considered at the meeting are received within such shorter period, as the chair shall direct.

Where the governing board agree, notice can be sent by email but this should be discussed in the FGB and a protocol agreed. Governors should have secure school email addresses for governing body business and all aspects of confidentiality should be discussed.

7. Agenda Items

With the agreement of the chair of the governing body or of the relevant committee any member of the governing body shall be entitled to include, on the agenda for any governing body or committee meeting, an item(s) on any particular issue provided that written notice thereof is given, as appropriate, to the chair of the governing body, or of the relevant committee and to the clerk at least 14 days prior to the meeting taking place.

8. Quorum

- ***the quorum for a meeting of the governing body shall be not less than 50% of the number of governors in post at the time of the meeting*** (not including vacancies) or such other number as may be determined from time to time by regulations issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families;
- ***the quorum for a meeting of any committee of the governing body shall be at least three (3) governors who are members of that committee;***
- ***associate members shall not be included in the calculation for quorum purposes.***

9. Voting

Every proposition shall be determined by a simple majority, a show of hands or, at the discretion of the chair of the meeting by general consensus (except in the case of the change of status of the school which is currently an LA school).

Only those governors at the meeting and present in the room at the time of the proposition being put by the chair shall be entitled to vote; in the event of a tied vote the chair shall have a second or casting vote

Any proposition to change the status of the school shall be determined by a majority of 75% (only governors present in person may vote) by confidential paper ballot administered by the clerk.

10. Confidential Matters

Prior to the consideration of or discussion on any matter on any agenda for a meeting of the governing body or of any committee, consideration shall be given as to whether the matter includes confidential information and the governing body or committee shall determine whether the public or any other person, not being a member of the governing body, should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the matter. In the event of any matter being deemed to be confidential then the minutes of the discussion and decision ***shall be excluded*** from the minutes of the meeting to be made available for public inspection. This standing order is additional to the requirement for governors to withdraw from a meeting and take no part in the consideration or voting on any item in which they have a declarable interest as required by standing order 18.

11. Minutes of Meetings

The draft minutes of all governing body and committee meetings shall be approved by the chair of the meeting within 14 days of the meeting having taken place. Thereafter the approved draft governing body minutes shall be circulated to all members of the governing body within 21 days of the meeting having taken place.

All non-confidential minutes shall be made available for public inspection only after they have been submitted for approval to the next succeeding meeting of the governing body or committee, as appropriate.

12. Record of Attendance

Every governor attending a meeting of the governing body or of any of its committees of which s/he is a member shall sign her/his name in the attendance book or sheet provided for that purpose.

13. Apologies for non-attendance at meetings of the governing body

All apologies together with the reason(s) for non-attendance at a meeting of the governing body shall be submitted to the clerk or to the chair not later than the commencement of the meeting. ***The governing body shall then determine whether such absence(s) should be treated as a 'consented' or 'non-consented' absence(s) and recorded as such in the minutes of the meeting.*** The failure to submit an apology shall be deemed to be a 'non-consented' absence and recorded as such in the minutes of the meeting.

14. Disqualification for non-attendance

Any governor, with the exception of the head teacher, who fails to attend any meeting of the governing body for a consecutive period of 6 months without the approval of the governing body, and such approval being recorded in the minutes, shall be automatically disqualified from serving as a governor. The period of 6 months shall begin from the date of the first meeting missed by the governor. Foundation (but not ex-officio foundation) governors, community governors, partnership governors or sponsor governors so disqualified shall not be eligible for nomination, election or re-appointment as a governor of any category for a period of 12 months immediately following his/her disqualification. Parent or staff governors are eligible for nomination and election (or appointment in the case of parent governors) immediately following their disqualification.

15. Records of the governing body

The clerk to the governing body shall be responsible for maintaining and keeping up to date the records of the governing body which for the purpose of this standing order shall comprise the following:

- the minutes of the meetings of the governing body and its committees;
- the record of attendance;

- the register of business and other interests;
- the record of hospitality/gifts;
- copies of self-declaration forms to confirm that governors are not disqualified for any of the criteria listed;
- any such other records as may be determined from time to time by formal resolution of the governing body;
- Records of governor monitoring visits to school;
- The signed and approved code of conduct and standing orders.

The records of the governing body shall be kept in a secure place provided at the school and shall be available for inspection by the public, members of the governing body, parents of pupils at the school and the Local Authority. Confidential items and confidential minutes shall not be made available for public inspection.

16. Register of business interests

Every governor shall complete the register of business interests within one month of their election/appointment as a governor. Entries in the register shall be updated as and when necessary and in any event annually. In the event of any governor having no registerable business interests then a NIL return shall be recorded for that governor(s).

17. Conduct

The Governing body shall annually adopt an up-to-date code of conduct, ideally the National Governors Association version. Governors could be given a copy (paper or electronic) of the code of conduct.

All Members of the governing body shall abide by The Nolan Principles on Public Life as follows:

- **Selflessness** - holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves their family, or their friends;
- **Integrity** - holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties;
- **Objectivity** - in carrying out public business; including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits; holders of public office should make choices on merit;
- **Accountability** - holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office;
- **Openness** - holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands;
- **Honesty** - holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest;
- **Leadership** -holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

18. Eligibility

Every governor shall complete the Disqualification and Declaration form to indicate that they are eligible to be a governor at a maintained school. Every governor shall complete an application for an enhanced check to the Disclosure and Barring Service. Refusal to do so disqualifies the refusing governor. Governor DBS

records should be held within the school's Single Central Record along with all staff and volunteers.

19. Declarations of interest

If any member of the governing body has any interest, whether pecuniary or otherwise, in any item on the agenda for any meeting at which they are present, they shall declare such interest prior to the consideration of that item and shall immediately leave the room and take no part in the consideration of or voting on that item.

20. Urgent action by the chair/vice-chair of the governing body

Where it is not reasonably practical to hold a meeting of the governing body (or of the relevant committee that has the delegated authority to deal with any matter) or where the relevant 7 days' notice of the meeting cannot be given and there will be a delay that would be seriously harmful to the school or to any pupil or member of staff if the matter is not dealt with then the chair (or in his absence the vice-chair) shall have authority to take such action as is deemed appropriate in the circumstances to deal with the matter. Such action must be reported to the next available meeting of the governing body or committee.

21. Financial and other guidance

The governing body and any committee(s) established by it shall, at all times, abide by the North Yorkshire County Council Financial Standing Orders and any directions that may be issued by the Children and Young People's Service (LA) under The Code of Practice on Local Education Authority – School Relations, Ref: DfEE 0027/2001 and any subsequent amendment thereto. The governing body shall also have regard to and take account of any advice or guidance that may be issued by the LA from time to time.

22. Variation and revocation of standing orders

These standing orders will be reviewed annually at the first Business meeting of the academic year.

23. Interpretation of standing orders

The ruling of the Chair as to the construction or application of any of these standing orders, or as to any proceedings of the governing body, shall be final and shall not be challenged at any meeting of the governing body or committee.

24. Associate members

Any reference in these standing orders to a governor shall, where the context so admits, include associate members.

25. Delegation arrangements (Regulation 18, 19 and 20)

25.1 The governing body may delegate its responsibilities in line with the NGA Delegation Planner (Annex D) and occasionally to an ad hoc committee. Delegation arrangements will be reviewed annually. Delegation arrangements agreed by this governing body are available to view on the school website Governance tab.

25.2 No action may be taken by any individual governor unless authority to do so has been delegated formally or is taken under Chair's Action in an emergency. All decisions are made at a full governing body meeting unless an individual or a committee has delegated authority to deal with a specific issue. The governing body will receive and note a report on any decision which it has delegated to a committee or an individual.

25.3 The governing body will adopt procedures set out in relevant policies for matters regarding Staff Grievance, Conduct, Discipline, Capability, Suspension or Dismissal, Salary Appeals, Headteacher Appraisal, Exclusions, and Complaints.

26. Governors' Allowances (Part 6 regs 27 – 30)

The governing body has agreed to reimburse a governor for expenditure necessarily incurred to perform his / her duty, In accordance with Part 6 of the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013. This Governing Body will pay expenses as follows:

- a. Travel expenses. Petrol/diesel costs may be claimed for meetings outside normal scheduled governing body meetings. Current rate per mile is as per NYCC teachers' allowance and 5p per passenger per mile.
- b. Printing. Per academic year – 1 x domestic ink cartridge and 1 x ream A4 paper.

All claims to be submitted within 30 days of expenditure to the Clerk for Headteacher's countersignature.

If you have any queries about information in this booklet please contact: Governor Support Services. Tel: 01609 798864 email: Governor.Support@northyorks.gov.uk

GOVERNOR VISITS TO THE SCHOOL PROTOCOL

1. Purpose/Benefits

- To raise governors' awareness of life and work in the school
- To develop positive relationships between governors and teachers
- To help governors monitor and evaluate the work of the school
- To help the school community to know the governors via their raised profile.

The visit is not about “inspection” which governors recognise is a professional activity the results of which are reported to them. The visits will provide governors with more understanding of the working life of the school and therefore can provide more detailed support and challenge where required.

2. Protocols

- Any visit to school by a governor should be planned between the Headteacher and / members of the Senior Leadership Team and the governor, at least 2 days in advance.
- Any visit will have a specific focus and will be agreed in advance with the Headteacher or the Senior Leadership Team
- Planning and other contextual detail will be provided by the Headteacher or the Senior Leadership Team in advance.
- The governor will report on the visit using the Governors Visits Report Form. This is to be submitted to the Headteacher within 2 working days via Clerk.
- The Headteacher will check the report for accuracy of content and any requirement for immediate actions to be taken.
- Any appropriate response will be made by the Headteacher to the Governor.
- The Visit Report will be included as a separate agenda point on the next meeting of the full governing body.

3. Commitment: 1 x half-day focused immersion visit by each member of the Governing Body per academic year.

4. Calendar of visits. A calendar of governors' visits to the school will be drawn up at the beginning of each year. The programme will ensure an even distribution of visits across subjects, year groups, classes, terms and teachers. However, the nature of a working school and the wide array of activities mean that governors will also be invited to attend other events in school on a more frequent basis. Governors are engaged (upon invitation) to visit the school for various reasons eg attend assemblies, prize giving etc.

5. Example events for other governor visits:

- Parent / Staff Forums
- Student voice activities
- Prize giving
- Assemblies / Remembrance Service / Carol Service
- Community events

Report form for governor's school visit

NAME: DATE OF VISIT:
Purpose of visit <i>(Previously agreed by the governing body with the headteacher)</i>
Observations and comments by the governor <i>(e.g. what you saw; what you learned; what you would like clarified; how long the visit lasted)</i>
Any key issues arising for the governing body <i>(e.g. the way resources are allocated; the way the school communicates; progress in implementing a key policy)</i>
Action following governing body meeting <i>(Record any action agreed by the governing body with regard to this visit)</i>
Signed: Governor Date