

# NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS including Guidance on Accountabilities and Responsibilities

1. Part IV of the Instrument of Government requires the College to draw up a Code of Conduct for Governors, which sets out the principles underpinning the governance and management of the College. All members of the Governing Body are required to uphold and abide by the code as a condition of appointment.
2. Governors are required to adhere to the seven principles of public life published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) in May 1995. These are:
  - **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 they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest 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; and
  - **Leadership** - holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.
3. Except with the approval of the Department, no members of the Governing Body shall take or hold any interest in any property held or used for the purpose of the college.
4. The Governing Body shall prepare and maintain a register of interests in accordance with the requirements set out in the Instrument. The register shall be made available during normal office hours at the College to any person wishing to inspect it. A summary of the register may be placed on the College's website.
5. Whether before or during any meeting of the Governing Body (or any committee or sub-committee of the Governing Body as provided for in the Articles of Government), any members become aware that they, or any person related to or connected with them, have a material interest in or relating to any matter to be or being considered, they shall declare such interest and withdraw from the meeting during such consideration and shall not vote on any question relating to the matter. This should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

6. Subject to paragraph 7, nothing in paragraph 5 shall require the principal, a member of staff or a student to declare an interest or withdraw from consideration of any matter where their interest exists only by reason of their being the principal, a member of staff or a student.
7. Notwithstanding paragraphs 5 and 6, the principal, the staff members and the student member shall, unless invited to remain by a resolution of the other members present, withdraw from any meeting including meetings of any committees where any of the circumstances set out in Schedule 4 to the Instrument apply.
8. The requirements set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 shall not prevent members of the Governing Body from considering and voting upon proposals for the College to insure members against liabilities arising out of their office or prevent the college from obtaining such insurance and paying the premiums.