

Ethical Standards

Members and Trustees should live up to the 7 Principles of Public Life defined by the Nolan Committee:

- **Selflessness**: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- **Integrity** – Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- **Objectivity** – Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- **Accountability** – Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- **Openness** – Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
- **Honesty** – Holders of public office should be truthful.
- **Leadership** - Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

References

- Academies Financial Handbook 2016
- Companies Act 2006: p170-181 for duties of company directors
- Charity Commission CC3: the essential trustee
- Governance Handbook (January 2017): for principles of good governance and legal duties
- Governance Competency Framework
- 21 Questions for Multi-Academy Trusts (National Governors' Association and All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Education)
- Nolan Committee: Seven Principles of Public Life
- Managing Public Money (HM Treasury)