



Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School

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Chair of Governors: Ann Parham

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Nominated Governor for Whistleblowing Terms of Reference 2020-21 **Lead Governor Maxine Evans**

The whistleblowing governor plays an essential role in responding to malpractice and wrongdoing and ensuring that concerns are correctly dealt with and addressed. The areas this covers may include (Not Exhaustive):

- Any unlawful act, whether criminal or a breach of civil law.
- Maladministration, as defined by the Local Government Ombudsman.
- Breach of any statutory Code of Practice.
- Breach of, or failure to implement or comply with Financial Regulations or Standing Orders.
- Any failure to comply with appropriate professional standards.
- Fraud, corruption or dishonesty.
- Actions which are likely to cause physical danger to any person, or to give rise to a risk of significant damage to property.
- Loss of income to the school.
- Abuse of power, or the use of the school's powers and authority for any unauthorised or ulterior purpose.
- Discrimination in employment or the provision of education.
- Any other matter that staff consider they cannot raise by any other procedure

The whistleblowing governor plays an important role in ensuring oversight and scrutiny of whistleblowing policy, procedure and practice on behalf of the full governing board. It is recognized that governors are volunteers and generously give of their time, interest and expertise to the ultimate benefit of children in our schools but it should not be underestimated that your role is that of a 'senior manager' of a school with accountability befitting such a significant responsibility.

Your role as Nominated Governor for Whistleblowing is to:

- Act as a 'critical friend' to the school, in order to ensure that the appropriate systems and procedures are in place to cover all aspects of the whistle blowing agenda and all statutory governing board responsibilities are met.
- Monitor appropriate policies, including the safeguarding and Whistleblowing policy.
- Deal with concerns where it is not appropriate for them to be dealt with by the Headteacher for example where the person raising the concerns suspects your Headteacher already knows about the malpractice and appears to be 'turning a blind eye', or where they suspect the Headteacher may be involved.

- Make the decision with the Academy whether to investigate an anonymous allegation. When making this decision ensure you take into account the seriousness of the issues raised, the credibility of what is being said, the likelihood of confirming the allegation from other sources and all other relevant factors.

Agreed by the Interim Executive Board on 20.10.20