

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

What are the Nolan Principles?

In 1994, the UK government established a Committee on Standards in Public Life. The committee was chaired by Lord Nolan and was tasked with making recommendations to improve standards of behaviour in public life. The first report of the committee established the seven principles of public life, also known as the “Nolan principles”. Introduced in 1995 by the UK government, these important values are enshrined in codes of conduct across the public sector, from schools and colleges and government departments to hospitals.

Who should uphold the Nolan Principles?

The seven principles apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder, these are usually elected or appointed. The principles also apply to anyone who works in:

- Civil Service
- Local Government
- Police
- Courts and Probation Services
- Health, Education, Social and Care Services

As a governor who has been appointed or elected to the Henley College, these principles in conjunction with the Code of Conduct for Board Members will apply to you and all other governors on the board.

Jacky Gearey
Clerk

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

1. SELFLESSNESS

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. 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 in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. OBJECTIVITY

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. HONESTY

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. 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.