



Association of Colleges

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College Chairs, Governors, Trustees, Chief Executives, Principals and Clerks

Code of Good Governance for English Colleges

Dear Colleague,

As you know over recent months we have been working on a replacement for the English Colleges' Foundation Code of Governance ('the Code') first published by AoC in 2009. We are now pleased to be able to publish today the final version. To ensure the Code has wide support, we have held development workshops attended by over 240 governors, senior leaders and clerks and we have shared drafts with the relevant departments and agencies. Over 160 colleges responded to the consultation and we are very grateful for the way colleagues have interacted and debated the principles detailed in the drafts.

We would like to thank you for your responses to the consultation and I hope you will see that we have listened and taken on your comments.

The Code is a voluntary initiative and should not be seen as supporting a 'tick box' approach. Boards are encouraged to adopt its 'spirit' as much as its 'letter'. By adopting and implementing the Code our belief is that you will reinforce your college's reputation and that of the wider sector, and give key stakeholders and partners' confidence in our ability to self-regulate.

The aim is to help governing boards meet and exceed basic governance requirements, demonstrating that the sector has robust arrangements to govern and manage our own affairs.

As autonomous bodies it is for individual colleges to take forward the Code as they see fit but our suggestion is that you may wish to consider adopting the new Code at your summer board meeting, building it into college governance procedures and processes, assessing and commenting each year in annual reports and periodically undertaking a governance effectiveness review.

Although this is a code for colleges, developed for the sector by the sector, we know that others will be interested and we have sent a copy to key government departments, the funding agencies, Ofsted and wider sector stakeholders and representative bodies.

Best wishes

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Smith'.

Chair of AoC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark White'.

Chair of Governors' Council

March 2015