



# The White Hills Park Trust

*A Culture of Excellence*

**For the purpose of this policy, representatives of the Board of Trustees and Local Governing Body will be referred to as governors.**

## **Virtual attendance and voting at Governing Body meetings**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The School Governance (England) (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) Regulations 2013 make provision for governing bodies of maintained schools in England to:  
*“approve alternative arrangements for governors to participate or vote at meetings of the governing body including but not limited to by telephone or video conference”.*
- 1.2 In relation to this, the Board of Trustees of The White Hills Park Trust has determined the following arrangements will apply.
- 1.3 These arrangements apply to meetings of Trustees and Local Governing Bodies.

### **2. Virtual Attendance at Meetings**

- 2.2 Where a governor wishes to virtually attend a meeting (or part of a meeting) by either telephone, video link or other agreed medium the chair and clerk must be notified at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (wherever possible) to ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made. The governor will be asked their reasons for not attending the meeting in person and their attendance virtually will be subject to the approval of those present at the beginning of the meeting, though this approval will not be withheld without good reason. Virtual attendance at the meeting will be recorded as such in the minutes. Where approval is withheld the reason for this will be minuted and the governor informed immediately.
- 2.3 Governors attending the meeting virtually will be entitled to vote on any issue providing they have participated (i.e. heard/engaged) for the whole agenda item which the vote relates to. Where a secret ballot is required this will be facilitated where possible (e.g. by taking a telephone call off speaker phone and the governor sharing their vote verbally with the clerk). Where this is not possible the governor will be required either to vote publicly or abstain.
- 2.4 Governors attending the meeting virtually will contribute to the quorum for the meeting. If the technological link is lost they will cease to contribute to the quorum, but this will not prevent the meeting continuing in their absence unless it has become inquorate.

- 2.5 Where possible, the meeting will be chaired by a governor who is present in person. However, in extraordinary circumstances where this is not possible, the meeting will be chaired by telephone, video conference or other agreed medium providing all governors are in agreement.
- 2.6 If, after all reasonable efforts, it does not prove possible for a governor to participate by telephone, video conference or other agreed medium, the meeting may still proceed with its business provided it is otherwise quorate.

### **3. Virtual Meetings**

- 3.1 Meetings should ordinarily be face to face meetings and all governors should make every effort to attend personally. However, additional and extraordinary meetings can take place via telephone, video conference call or other agreed medium as long as the usual quorum of governors is 'present'.
- 3.2 Where a meeting is taking place virtually every effort will be made to enable all governors to access the meeting.
- 3.3 Where a meeting is taking place virtually the usual statutory notice arrangements will apply and all papers to be considered will be circulated at least seven days in advance of the meeting, except where the chair has exercised their right to waive the usual notice in an emergency situation.
- 3.4 Virtual meetings will be minuted in the same way as other meetings, either by the clerk or by a governor/staff member (other than the head teacher) who is present virtually taking the minutes, and these will be presented to the next Board of Trustees or LGB meeting.
- 3.5 Virtual meetings should not be digitally recorded by any persons present without the express prior approval of governors and for a specified purpose.

### **4. Review of this Policy**

- 4.1 The policy will be reviewed at least annually, but any governor with any concerns about its operation can request that it is reviewed at any time.

