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1. POLICY INTENT

East Street Farm is an independent special school providing therapeutic education for children aged 8 to 16 with autism, Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and associated mental health needs including developmental trauma.

This policy explains how East Street Farm's leadership and management are supported. It outlines the roles of the Proprietors, Head of Education and the Governance Committee and advises the school regarding relevant standards and legislation.

Governance provides strategic support, informed challenge and oversight to maintain high standards in education, clinical interventions and safeguarding.

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

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This policy is informed by the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 Part 8: Quality of Leadership and Management
- Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice
- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023
- The Equality Act 2010
- DfE: *Health and Safety: Responsibilities for Schools* (2022)

3. RELATED POLICIES

This policy should be read alongside the following East Street Farm policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy

4. WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to:

- The Proprietors of East Street Farm
- Members of the Governance Committee
- The Head of Education
- Senior managers and staff who contribute to governance reporting or oversight

All those involved in governance are expected to understand their roles and responsibilities and uphold East Street Farm's values and statutory duties.

5. VISION AND VALUES

Governance at East Street Farm is underpinned by the following core values:

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Nurturing Belonging - focuses on creating a safe and inclusive environment where every individual feels valued and supported.

Supporting Growth - promotes the personal, social and academic development of all students and staff.

Inspiring Change - encourages transformation, resilience and the continuous pursuit of improvement across the school community.

The Proprietors and Governance Committee ensure these values are promoted through all aspects of leadership, oversight and decision-making.

6. DEFINITIONS

Proprietors – Individuals who hold overall responsibility for governance, leadership and statutory compliance at East Street Farm.

Governance Committee – A supportive and advisory body guiding the Head of Education and Proprietors.

Head of Education – The senior manager appointed by the Proprietors to manage daily operations and ensure the quality of provision and leadership of staff at East Street Farm.

7. POLICY DETAILS

7.1. Governance Structure

The governance structure at East Street Farm reflects its specialist nature and size. Oversight is provided through a supporting Governance Committee rather than a formal board of governors.

The Governance Committee brings together individuals with relevant expertise and experience to support the school. Membership is designed to ensure an appropriate balance of knowledge in areas such as education, safeguarding, SEND, therapeutic practice, business/finance and community engagement. East Street Farm works hard to ensure the Committee is reflective of its community and seeks to include parent or carer representation wherever possible.

7.2. Role of the Proprietors

The Proprietors hold overall accountability for leadership, management and compliance at East Street Farm. They ensure the setting meets all statutory

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standards and that leadership is effective and consistent with the setting's vision and values.

The Proprietors are hands-on and visible in the day-to-day life of East Street Farm. They provide regular supervision and professional oversight to the Clinical Leads and the Head of Education and maintain an active presence within the setting. They attend meetings, contribute to strategic planning and ensure that communication between operational and governance levels remains strong and transparent.

Their responsibilities include:

- Setting and reviewing the strategic direction of East Street Farm
- Appointing and performance-managing the Head of Education
- Ensuring effective safeguarding, health and safety and compliance monitoring
- Overseeing financial management and use of resources
- Ensuring value for money in provision
- Acting as the registered responsible body with Ofsted and other regulators

7.3. Role of the Governance Committee

The Governance Committee at East Street Farm provides a supportive and advisory function to the Proprietors and leadership team. Its role is to contribute expertise, perspective and guidance that enrich the operation and development of East Street Farm.

The Committee does not hold compliance responsibilities or formal accountability for the leadership or management of the setting.

The Committee:

- Offers advice and feedback on areas such as education, safeguarding, SEND and student wellbeing
- Provides a forum for reflection and discussion on the development of East Street Farm
- Represents a collaboration between the Proprietors, leadership and wider community
- Contributes to maintaining alignment with East Street Farm's ethos and values
- Shares experience that supports continuous improvement and innovation

Members are invited to contribute constructively and positively, helping to ensure

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that East Street Farm continues to provide a nurturing and effective environment for students.

7.4. Meetings and Reporting

- The Governance Committee meets termly as a minimum
- Meetings are formally minuted and include agenda items on safeguarding, student outcomes, curriculum, development strategies, staffing, premises and risks
- The Head of Education provides a written report for each meeting
- The Proprietors produce an Annual Governance Overview summarising performance, safeguarding outcomes and development priorities

7.5. Independence and Accountability

Governance Committee members act in the best interests of students and East Street Farm. They are not involved in daily management.

Conflicts of interest must be declared and managed by the Proprietors.

7.6. Training and Development

All Governance Committee members will:

- Complete an induction covering East Street Farm's ethos, structure and statutory duties
- Receive regular training on safeguarding, SEND and governance practice
- Participate in ongoing professional development to strengthen their contribution

7.7. Code of Conduct for Governance Members

Roles and Behaviour

- Members understand their collective role in supporting the Proprietors and Head of Education
- Members act fairly and with integrity
- Members promote transparency and confidentiality

Commitment

- Members prepare for and attend meetings and visits

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- Members engage with East Street Farm to understand student and staff experience
- Members identify and complete relevant training

Relationships

- Members communicate respectfully and work collaboratively
- Members contribute to a culture of professionalism and mutual respect

Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

- Members declare personal or financial interests at the start of meetings
- Confidentiality is maintained at all times

Breaches

If a breach of the Code of Conduct occurs it will be referred to the Chair who will investigate and seek resolution.

Any concerns/complaints about a member of the Governance Committee will be managed in line with the East Street Farm Complaints and/or Whistleblowing Policies.

8. POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATES

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if:

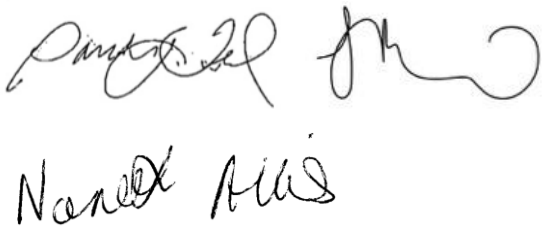
- A significant incident occurs
- Statutory or regulatory requirements are updated or
- The needs of students change

The Head of Education, Governance Committee and Proprietors are responsible for overseeing the review process, evaluating outcomes and implementing any necessary updates.

Any revisions to this policy will be communicated to staff, parents/carers, the Governance Committee and other relevant stakeholders.

This policy is available to all individuals upon request from the admin office.

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Proprietors Signature: Head of Education Signature:	
Date:	05/01/2026
Review Date:	05/01/2027

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