



## **ST MARTIN'S PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE: INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

(Courtesy of the Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa)

The following principles of good practice are set forth to provide a common perspective on the responsibilities of the Governing Body.

1. A Governing Body Member actively supports and promotes the School's mission, vision, strategic goals and policy positions.
2. A Governing Body Member is knowledgeable about the School's mission and goals, including its commitment to equity and justice and represents them appropriately and accurately within the community.
3. A Governing Body Member stays fully informed about current operations and issues by attending meetings regularly, coming to meetings well-prepared and participating fully in all matters.
4. The Governing Body sets policy and focuses on long range and strategic issues. An individual Governing Body Member does not become involved directly in specific management, personnel or curricular issues.
5. The Governing Body Member takes care to separate the interests of the School from the specific needs of a particular child or constituency.
6. A Governing Body Member accepts and supports Governing Body decisions. Once a decision has been made, the Governing Body speaks as one voice.

7. A Governing Body Member keeps all Governing Body deliberations confidential.
8. A Governing Body Member guards against conflict of interest, whether personal or business-related.
9. A Governing Body Member has the responsibility to support the School and its Principal and to demonstrate that support within the community.
10. Authority is vested in the Governing Body as a Whole. A Governing Body Member who learns of an issue of importance to the School has the obligation to bring it to the Principal, or to the Governing Body Chairman and must refrain from responding to the situation individually.
11. A Governing Body Member contributes to the development programme of the School, including strategic planning and development, financial support and active involvement in annual and capital giving.
12. Each Governing Body Member, not just the Treasurer and Finance Committee, has fiduciary responsibility to the School for sound financial management.