

Code of Conduct for Trustees

- I will perform duties as outlined in the Trustee Role Description.
- I will act within the governing document of the Vegetarian Society and the law, and abide by the policies and procedures of the charity.
- I will respect and uphold the values of the Vegetarian Society, which are outlined in its business plan.
- I will support the strategy, objects, business plan and mission of the Vegetarian Society, championing it, using any skills or knowledge I have to further that mission and seeking expert advice where appropriate.
- I will respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality, while never using confidentiality as an excuse not to disclose matters that should be transparent and open.
- I will develop and maintain a sound and up to date knowledge of the Vegetarian Society and its environment.
- I will seek to be accountable for my actions as a trustee and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- I accept my responsibility to ensure that the charity is well run and will raise issues and questions in an appropriate and sensitive way to ensure that this is the case.

Managing interests

- I will not gain materially or financially from my involvement with the Vegetarian Society unless specifically authorised to do so.
- I will act in the best interests of the charity as a whole, and not as a representative of any group – considering what is best for the Vegetarian Society and its present and future beneficiaries, and avoiding bringing the charity into disrepute.
- Unless authorised, I will not put myself in a position where my personal interests conflict with my duty to act in the interests of the organisation. Where there is a conflict of interest I will ensure that this is managed in line with the Conflicts of Interest policy.

Governance

- I will actively contribute towards improving the governance of Council, participating in induction and training and sharing ideas for improvement with the board.
- I will help to identify good candidates for trusteeship and, with my fellow trustees, will appoint new trustees in accordance with agreed selection criteria.

Relations with others

- I will endeavour to work considerately and respectfully with all those I come into contact with at the Vegetarian Society. I will respect diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoid giving offence.
- I recognise that the roles of trustees, volunteers and staff of the Vegetarian Society are different, and I will seek to understand and respect the difference between these roles.

- Where I also volunteer with the charity I will maintain the separation of my role as a trustee and as a volunteer.
- I will seek to support and encourage all those I come into contact with at the Vegetarian Society. In particular I recognise my responsibility to support the chair and senior staff members.
- Any public comments I make about the Vegetarian Society will be considered and in line with policy, whether I make them as an individual or as a trustee.

Leaving the board

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put into motion that may result in my being asked to resign from Council, or my removal from Council in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association.
- Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. In the event that I am asked to resign from the board I will accept the majority decision of the board in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.
- If I wish to cease being a trustee of the Vegetarian Society at any time, I will inform the Chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for leaving.

Signed _____

Name _____

Date _____