

Code of Conduct - cross reference:

GUIDANCE FOR SAFER WORKING PRACTICE FOR THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Standards for Teachers and Staff.

The teaching standards are closely followed in school. These standards underpin the terms and conditions for employees.

There is a code of conduct for all staff and we expect this to be adhered to.

Please dress appropriately for school, considering both smart appearance and Health and Safety.

Please take note of the comments surrounding the use of personal technology, within the Safeguarding Policy.

Code of Conduct For Teaching and non-teaching staff
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Code of Conduct is intended as a guide and a help to all school staff. It sets out standards of conduct which staff are expected to follow when within, or representing the School. This code is not exhaustive but is written to assist staff and it is important that staff should take advice and guidance if necessary. If in doubt ask.

1.2 The underlying purpose is to ensure that the School provides a high quality service to its pupils and stakeholders in accordance with the aims of the school and to promote public confidence in the integrity of the School.

1.3 It takes in the requirements of the law and attempts to define the required levels of professionalism to ensure the well-being of the School, its staff and its customers.

1.4 It has been drafted to comply with School Policies and Procedures.

1.5 Staff are requested to read this Code carefully and consider the issues which it raises.

1.6 The Headteacher should also ensure that all staff are aware of the Code's contents.

1.7 Investigations of alleged breaches of this Code will be covered under the School's Disciplinary procedures and related codes of practice.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 EXCLUSIVITY OF SERVICE

1. Staff's off-duty hours are their personal concern, but they should avoid a position where duty and private interests conflict. This includes:

- Staff members making online associations/friendships with current pupils via social networking sites such as Facebook.
- Staff members using texting/email facilities to communicate with current pupils.

2. The School does not seek to preclude staff unreasonably from undertaking additional employment but you are required to devote your full time, attention and abilities to your duties during your working hours and to act in the best interests of the School at all times. Accordingly, you must not, without the written consent of the Headteacher, undertake any employment or engagement which might interfere with the performance of your duties or conflict with the interests of the School.

3. It follows that, regardless of whether you are employed on a full-time or fractional contract, you are required to notify the Headteacher of any employment or engagement which you intend to undertake whilst in the employment of the School. (including any such employment or engagement which commenced before your employment began with the School).

2.2 SPECIFIC ASPECTS

1. **Discrimination:** Staff must at all times observe the School's Equal Opportunities Policies (Single Equality Scheme) for staff and pupils and treat pupils, parents and other stakeholders in accordance with those policies.

2. **Health and Safety:** Staff must take care of their personal hygiene, safety and welfare, and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions. All staff must comply with the requirements of the School Health and Safety policy and relevant legislation and regulations, and also ensure that pupils do likewise.

3. **Fire:** Staff must familiarise themselves with the fire precautions, procedures and drill routines. They must regard practice fire drills or building evacuations in a positive manner, and ensure they are perceived by pupils as an essential precaution to prevent risk of injury or fatality.

5. **Business Practice:** Staff must maintain an impeccable standard of integrity in all their professional relationships.

6. **Media:** Other than on matters of publicity, only the Headteacher is authorised to speak or send any communication on behalf of the School to members of the press or broadcast media. This decision is to avoid any embarrassment or unfair pressure on staff. This authorisation may be extended by the Headteacher to other staff members.

7. **Copyright:** Staff shall observe copyright laws on computer software, audio-visual and printed material.

8. Data Protection Act: It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure the School's compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act. Personal data must only be used to assist you to carry out your work; it must not be given to people who have no right to see it. All staff should maintain the security of all computerised databases of information on individuals, whether they are staff, pupils or members of the general public. Staff should refer any queries to the Headteacher. SEE GDPR POLICY.

2.3 GENERAL POINTS

1. Staff should display the highest possible standards of professional behaviour that is required in an educational establishment (see also Appendix 1).
2. Staff should seek to co-operate with their colleagues, providing support, help and guidance as required by them and their line manager, and enable effective communication throughout the School.
3. Staff should not use their position in the School for private advantage or gain.
4. Staff should avoid words and deeds that might bring the School into disrepute or might undermine colleagues in the perception of others (staff/pupils/parents/community).
5. Staff should retain professional independent objectivity and not promote religious views or political bias to others in their working activities.
6. Staff should be aware of, and should follow school policies, systems and procedures. They should normally communicate through the line management structure, and should ensure pupils do likewise.
7. Continuing professional development and support shall be provided by the School and, where appropriate and agreed, will be based on the objectives of the School Development Plan. Periodically, employees will be required to attend certain training activities.
8. Staff should attend their place of work punctually in accordance with their conditions of service and at the times agreed with their line manager. Those unable to avoid being late or absent should, whenever possible, give as much notice to the Headteacher so that alternative cover arrangements may be made.

2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

1. Teaching staff **MUST** maintain and properly complete a register for all classes.
2. In order to ensure safeguards both for staff and pupils, staff must obtain permission from the Headteacher:
 - before taking pupils off the school premises;
 - before arranging any visiting speakers;
 - before incurring any expenditure on behalf of the School.

2.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff shall maintain the appropriate levels of confidentiality with respect to student and staff records and other sensitive matters. They should take care not to discuss issues of particularly sensitive matters outside of the school especially when it could cause distress /concern / worry to school staff, pupils or parents.

2.6 WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK.

If any member of staff is in any doubt with regard to the guidelines of this Code, and how they apply in any particular situation, then please consult with the Headteacher. It is emphasised that this Code is intended to be a help and to enable fairness and equity between all staff.

APPENDIX 1

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

Professional behaviour is a generic term, but within this Code of Conduct includes such aspects as:

- acting in a fair, courteous and mature manner to pupils, colleagues and other stakeholders;
- co-operating and liaising with colleagues, as appropriate, to ensure pupils receive a coherent and comprehensive educational service;
- endeavouring to assist the School achieve its corporate and strategic objectives – in particular, by adopting a positive attitude to marketing and the achievement of quality and equality;
- respect for School property;
- maintaining the image of the School through standards of dress, general courtesy, correct use of School stationery, etc.;
- taking responsibility for the behaviour and conduct of pupils in the classroom and sharing such responsibility elsewhere on the premises;
- being fit for work (ie not adversely influenced by drugs, alcohol, etc.);
- being familiar with job requirements (eg proper preparation, use of suitable methods/systems, maintenance of appropriate/required records, etc), including keeping up-to-date with developments relevant to the job.
- being familiar with communication channels and School procedures applicable to both pupils and staff;
- ensuring all assessments/exams/tests are conducted in a fair and proper (prescribed) manner, and that procedures are strictly followed with respect to confidentiality and security;
- respect for the rights and opinions of others.

This list is not exhaustive but the examples are given as a summary. The Behaviour Policy also summarises expectations on staff.

APPENDIX 2

DISCIPLINARY RULES

The following are examples of behaviour which the School finds unacceptable. The list is not exhaustive and it is acknowledged that it will be necessary to exercise judgement in all cases and to be fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

1. Any form of physical/verbal violence towards pupils.
2. Staff should not communicate inappropriately with pupils in or out of the workplace.

Examples of inappropriate behaviour that would constitute a concern that should be reported to the DSL include:

- ***Being overly friendly with children – this could include, but is not limited to, communicating with a child through personal social media or allowing inappropriate conversations or enquiries to occur with a child or children, e.g. conversations that are about your personal life.***
- ***Having favourites and treating those favourites differently.***
- ***Taking photographs of children on your personal mobile phone or devices.***
- ***Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door.***
- ***Humiliating pupils.***

3. Physical violence, actual or threatened towards other staff or visitors to the School.
4. Offences, insults or discrimination against pupils, other staff or visitors to the School.
5. Offences, insults and discrimination (based on protected characteristics - disability, sexual orientation , gender, race or religion – termed ‘hate incidents / crime’) against pupils, other staff or visitors to the School.
6. Theft of school monies or property and of monies or property of colleagues or visitors to the school. Removal from school premises of property which is not normally taken away without the express authority of the Headteacher or of the owner of the property may be regarded as gross misconduct.
7. Deliberate falsification of documents such as time sheets, bonus sheets, subsistence and expense claims for the purpose of gain.
8. Acceptance of bribes or other corrupt financial practices.
9. Wilful damage of school property or of property belonging to other staff or visitors to the school.
10. Wilful disregard of safety rules or policies affecting the safety of pupils, other staff or visitors to the school.

11. Any wilful act which could result in actionable negligence for compensation against the School.

12. Refusal to comply with reasonable instructions given by staff with a supervisory responsibility.

13. Gross neglect of duties and responsibilities.

14. Unauthorised absence from work.

14. Being untruthful and/or engaging in deception in matters of importance within the school community.

15. Deliberate breaches of confidentiality particularly on sensitive matters.

16. Being incapable by reason of alcohol or drugs (not prescribed for a health problem) from fulfilling duties and responsibilities of employment.

17. Conduct which substantially brings the name of the school into disrepute or which seriously undermines confidence in the employee.

The following are examples of behaviour which could lead to formal disciplinary warnings.

- ***Unsatisfactory timekeeping without permission.***
- ***Neglect of safety rules and procedures. Some offences of wilful neglect may be regarded as gross misconduct.***
- ***Breaches of confidentiality. Deliberate breaches on sensitive matters maybe regarded as gross misconduct.***
- ***Failure to comply with reasonable work related requirements or lack of care in fulfilling the duties of the post.***
- ***Behaviour towards other employees, pupils, and visitors which gives justifiable offence. Certain behaviour giving rise to offence may be regarded as gross misconduct and/or hate crime.***
- ***Acting in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as rude, impolite, contemptuous or lacking appropriate professional demeanour. In certain circumstances such behaviour may be regarded as gross misconduct.***
- ***Conduct which it is considered adversely affects either the reputation of the school or affects confidence in the employee. Certain conduct may be regarded as gross misconduct***