

# Code of Conduct Policy

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## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 In performing their duties, Highbury Quadrant School employees must act with integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity. The public is entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from all school employees.

1.2 This Code is to be given to existing employees and new employees when they commence employment. If employees have any doubts or queries about what is acceptable conduct, or about anything else in this Code, they should raise these with their direct line manager, the School Business Manager or the Headteacher.

## **2.0 School Ethos/Vision**

Our core values are Respect, Achievement and Positivity, through which we aim to challenge and support children to be curious and independent learners who have the confidence to aim high in life. We want to develop a passion for learning inspired by high quality teaching.

Our curriculum is designed to excite and stimulate pupils to learn about the world they live in and to enjoy a creative approach to development. From the Early Years onwards we aim to develop strong characteristics of effective learning and learning behaviour. In this way, children experience learning with and from each other. We aim to build on individual strengths and talents and expect all children in our school to reach the National Standards in attainment and be ready to accept the challenge of moving on to secondary school. The staff and governors are firmly committed to equality of opportunity and ensure that barriers to learning are removed so that every learner can achieve his/her potential.

The school leadership structure ensures that the best use is made of all our resources and is focused on setting high expectations and securing high standards.

## **3.0 The purpose of the Code and its status**

3.1 The Code sets out the core values for acceptable standards of behaviour by employees and the consequences of any failure to meet the standards. It aims to ensure:

- employees are clear about the school's standards and expectations of them
- employees deal appropriately with difficult and/or potentially compromising situations
- employees recognise their individual, collective and corporate responsibility to promote and encourage high standards of conduct
- that pupils and the school community receive the best service
- that the school community is treated respectfully at all times

improved management of the school and its services.

3.2 This Code cannot cover all of the school's expectations of its employees. The school could not possibly function without its employees' loyalty, honesty, competence, integrity, professionalism and simple common sense - all these are implicit in the Code.

3.3 Headteachers have a particular responsibility to make sure that employees are aware of the Code and its requirements, including its implications for their duties and that working arrangements, practices and policies support and are compatible with the Code.

3.4 The Code forms part of employees' contracts of employment and any breaches of the Code may result in action being taken under the relevant school procedures; for example misconduct, criminal convictions, and competence.

3.5 In addition to this policy, all staff employed under Teachers' Terms and Conditions of Employment have a statutory obligation to adhere to the 'Teachers' Standards' and, in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards - Personal and Professional Conduct.

3.6 Employees are expected to comply with the Code in all aspects of their work and in their lives outside work insofar as they may compromise their employment by the school.

3.7 The Code does not place restrictions on employees' trade union activities, provided that these are reasonable, authorised by senior trade union branch officers, and are within the trade union facilities agreement.

3.8 The Code refers to a number of school policies and procedures in respect of behaviour and the ways in which employees are required to work. Employees should refer to these for greater details on matters referred to in the Code. School policies and procedures can be found on the school website and on the main staff server.

#### **4.0 Who is covered by the Code?**

4.1 The Code applies to all employees of Highbury Quadrant School.

4.2 Headteachers have a particular role and responsibility for assisting employees to meet the school's standards and for taking action where standards are not met. Managers must take steps to ensure that they and all employees for whom they are responsible comply with the requirement of the Code.

4.3 The Code is addressed to school employees. However, the school also expects that anyone it engages or contracts to carry out any of its functions will abide by the spirit of the Code. These include:

school governors

consultants and their employees

contractors and their employees

the Council's partners and their employees

employees of other organisations who have been seconded to work for the school

agency staff

volunteers and individuals undertaking work placements or apprenticeships or similar roles.

4.4 In the event that the Code is breached, consideration will be given to terminating, or seeking compensation under the contract or other arrangement between the consultant/contractor/outside organisation and the school, and/or referring the matter to the police or other relevant regulatory body, dependent on the circumstances.

4.5 The Code will apply to employees in education establishments where it has been adopted by the governing body.

## **5.0 Standards, service delivery and equality**

5.1 In addition to high levels of performance, a good image is vital for the school so that its residents and businesses can have confidence in the services provided.

5.2 As public servants, school employees have a particular responsibility to look after public resources and property and their conduct inside and outside work must never undermine the trust and confidence the public and the school need to have in them to carry out their work properly and conscientiously.

5.3 All employees who work in schools set examples of behaviour and conduct which can be copied by pupils/students. All employees must, therefore, demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils/students to do the same.

5.4 Employees are the schools "ambassadors". It is vital, therefore, that the public finds them polite, competent, professional, friendly, helpful and trustworthy.

## **High standards**

5.5 At all times employees are required to:

give the highest possible standard of service to the school community and make service delivery their main priority

do nothing inside or outside their working hours which could undermine public confidence in them as school employees and/or in the school

work in the best interests of the school and the community it serves, in line with school policy

do nothing which results in the school (or any other public authority) being denied revenue to which it is entitled

follow school policies and procedures, and meet laid down standards.

## **Equality Issues**

5.6 Highbury Quadrant School is an equal opportunities service provider and employer. No form of discrimination is tolerated. All school employees have a responsibility to promote and comply with the school's equal opportunities policies and practices and with the requirements of the law.

5.7 School employees are required to:

make sure that the school's equality policies are complied with and carried out

treat all members of the community, parents, pupils and other employees fairly and equally regardless of their sex, race, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexuality, religion, age, disability or marital status

assist all members of the community, parents and pupils so that they can benefit from the services on offer

never display in the workplace, nor allow others to display, sexist or racist material, or material which would normally be considered offensive taking into account the school's equality policy

tell their manager or Headteacher about anything which may be discrimination, bullying and harassment or victimisation of themselves, colleagues, parents, pupils or members of the community.

5.8 The Headteacher has a particular responsibility for making sure that:

services are delivered in a manner which effectively meets the Council's/school's equality policies and that all groups within the community have equal access

employees, pupils and parents can enjoy an environment which is free of any discrimination

the Headteacher/Governor is informed about any incidents and/or complaints about discrimination, victimisation, or harassment on the school website, on the server in 'policies' and in the main office.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

5.9 Employees must report promptly at the appointed time at their designated workplaces, at the start of their working day and after any authorised breaks.

5.10 Employees who are prevented from reporting for work because of illness and/or injury must comply with the sickness notification/certification requirements detailed in their contracts of employment, school policy and/or as directed by their Headteacher.

5.11 School employees must arrive in good time in order to start work promptly. Employees are expected to be punctual in relation to all appointments and engagements unless there are exceptional circumstances. Lateness for appointments with people who do not work for the school (e.g. parents) reflects badly on the school.

5.12 Employees who are going off-site for a significant period of time (i.e. more than 30 minutes, (other than their lunch break), during normal working hours, must ensure: that a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is aware in line with the school's policy swipe/sign out and swipe/sign in on return (where applicable).

5.13 Headteachers must:

make sure that proper arrangements are in place for employees to record their start and finish times at work and their whereabouts.

### **Criminal Convictions/ Charges/ Investigations**

5.14 School employees must:

show the original DBS certificate to the school before they take up post or as soon as practicable afterwards, including for DBS re-checks

keep the Headteacher informed of progress if they are investigated and/or charged in connection with a criminal offence

tell their Headteacher immediately if they are convicted of any criminal offence, bound over, or cautioned about activities inside or outside work, including road traffic offences.

5.15 Employees are required to report any criminal activities by colleagues in the course of their employment.

5.16 Dependent on the duties of the post, employees are also required to declare whether they or anyone with whom they share a household, are disqualified from working in, or being concerned in the management of, the early year and later years' settings as defined in the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations.

### **Behaviour at work**

5.17 The way employees behave at work directly affects the service, colleagues, the workplace and the public's perception about the school.

5.18 Employees must always:

Show respect for the school's community, public and colleagues and behave in a way which cannot reasonably cause offence

Exercise self-control - never behave in an aggressive and angry manner, nor use foul and abusive language.

### **Dress**

5.19 Highbury Quadrant School has a strict and well respected uniform for students. As part of the ethos of the school staff should present a positive and professional image to all our pupils and families at all times.

5.20 The manner in which employees present themselves at work directly affects the school's image, their colleagues, parents and the service and should be appropriate for the work they are carrying out for the school. Therefore, employees are required to:

be clean, tidy, presentable and professional at all times and comply with the requirements of the school in relation to appropriate dress for their service and work role

always wear uniform or protective clothing if these have been issued, or made available for particular tasks, and make sure that these are clean and in good repair

always have regard to the health and safety implications of what they wear e.g. wear protective clothing.

5.21 Employees may follow the traditions of their ethnic/cultural/religious background provided they are safe and appropriate to the job. This must be discussed with the Headteacher to make sure there are no health and safety or other implications. Advice should be sought from Schools HR.

5.22 Employees may be asked to remove excessive piercings or cover tattoos while at school, to promote the ethos of the school and present a positive and professional image to all our students at all times. The Headteacher will discuss this with the Employee. Advice can be sought from Schools HR.

5.23 The Headteacher/ line managers and middle / senior leaders must:

explain to all employees the importance of being dressed appropriately i.e. presenting a positive and professional image, as part of creating productive and aspirational work environment

meet with employees they not dressed in a way which presents a positive and professional image If this is not resolved satisfactorily, then the school may use the disciplinary policy.

### **Name badges**

5.24 Employees must always wear their name badges at work (unless the Headteacher has specifically agreed that they may carry it instead).

### **Visitors**

5.25 When arranging for visitors to come in school, employees must ensure:

their line manager, or the appropriate senior leader/Headteacher, is aware and gives approval. A member of the SLT will determine whether a DBS check is necessary depending on the nature of the visit

the visit appears on the school bulletin (if/where required)

the visitor adheres to the school dress code and other relevant protocols.

the appropriate page of the visitors' book is completed with their name, the time of the visit, whom they are to meet

come and collect the visitor at reception when they arriveThe visitors recieves the relevant swipe card

they return the visitor to the reception area when they leave; Visitors must not be allowed to find their own way in school, and should display their visitors badges at all times.

If a visitor is seen unaccompanied in school without a badge, it is everyone's duty to challenge that person.

## **Driving**

5.26 Employees who have to drive in the course of their work must:

always drive courteously and according to the laws and rules of the road

always make sure that vehicles are roadworthy, well-maintained, appropriately insured, taxed, and suitable for the purposes for which they are being used

immediately advise the Headteacher if they are stopped by the police whilst driving, are involved in a road traffic accident or incurring a parking ticket in the course of their work duties

advise their manager of any health issues which may affect their driving.

## **Smoking**

5.27 All employees are required to comply to the requirements of the law and with the school's no smoking policy if appropriate. The legislation makes it illegal to smoke in all public enclosed or substantially enclosed area and workplaces.

## **Alcohol, Drugs and Substance misuse**

5.28 It is the school's policy that employees must not consume alcohol or take drugs (other than prescribed or over the counter drugs) during working hours (including lunchtimes and other breaks) and must not work under the influence of either of these.

5.29 Employees should not present themselves at school or at work drunk or under the influence of alcohol or drugs such that their performance is diminished or otherwise unacceptable. This includes committing a drink or drug offence which could endanger anyone's safety or diminish confidence in the employees suitability for continued employment.

5.30 Employees must consult their GPs for advice on the effects any legal medication may have on their ability to perform or conduct themselves at work, and advise the Headteacher accordingly.

5.31 Employees must inform the Headteacher if they have genuine reason to believe that a colleague may have an alcohol, drug or substance misuse problem.

5.32 Employees who think that they may have an alcohol, drug or substance abuse problem, can speak to the Headteacher and seek support through the employee assistance

programme or other support programme. Employees should also be advised to seek support through their trade union.

5.33 Employees must ensure that alcohol is not to be consumed or stored on the school premises unless under the authorisation of the Headteacher, for example for end of term social events.

## **Health and safety**

5.34 All employees must:

carry out their work in a safe and proper manner having regard at all times for their own health and safety and that of colleagues and the public

be familiar with health and safety law, which is displayed in all workplaces, and the school's Health and Safety Policy

comply with the health and safety regulations relating to the particular task(s) they are carrying out

complete the health and safety training applicable to their jobs.

5.35 The Headteacher/manager must make sure that their employees work in a safe place, with safe methods, and must be familiar with the school's Health and Safety Policy and their responsibilities within it.

## **Personal financial affairs**

5.36 All employees must:

ensure they do not conduct their personal finances in a way which results in Islington Council, or another public body, being defrauded (this includes claiming Housing Benefit to which they are not entitled; failing to register for Council Tax; occupying Council property unlawfully)

keep up to date with Council Tax, rent and service charges due to this and any other Council - the Council will use any powers available to it to reclaim monies, including attachment of earnings once the relevant procedures for establishing monies to be reclaimed is complete

avoid being the subject of legal action which may bring the Council/school into disrepute and/or undermine the relationship of trust and confidence between the employee, the Council and the school.

Employees should note that:

employment and payroll data held by the Council/school may be used to identify employees with debts to the Council/school, including rent, commercial rent, Council tax, leasehold service charges, Business Rates, Right-to-Buy Insurance, Housing Benefit etc.

It is the employee's responsibility to check his/her payslip and to report an overpayment or any other payment error to the school Business Manager or Headteacher. Failure to do so may potentially be treated as fraud.

## **6.0 Communication, internet and social media**

6.1 The school has email and internet policies and guidelines. Employees must read and sign up to these before they use email and the internet: The Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy must read and the return slip signed and returned to the Headteacher.

6.2 Employees' names, designations and service areas will be available to the public.

6.3 Communications may be intercepted where appropriate, in line with the school's policy. This may include monitoring (and recording) of telephones, the internet and e-mail.

### **Internet, phone and safe computer use**

6.4 All employees must:

Familiarise themselves with the school's e-mail and internet use policy

Take all reasonable steps to prevent students having access to their details on social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat etc. (This list is not exhaustive)

Not access Facebook or any other social networking pages of our students or accept students as 'Friends'

Not make derogatory remarks about the school, management, colleagues, pupils, or other members of the school community, on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat etc. (This list is not exhaustive)

Always lock their computer if required to leave the computer unattended; Never leave a logged on computer unattended. Never use a computer that is logged on as someone else

Not allow students to have access to their mobile phone number or to their mobile phone

Not contact students via their mobile phone, but only through their parents' contact details

Not use their mobile phone in school other than in the staffroom or office spaces

Never give students their personal email address or contact students using their personal email.

6.5 It is not appropriate to use mobile phones in public areas of the school. They should only be used in the staff room and in designated staff work bases.

6.6 All staff have access to the school's server and ICT services. On logging in, all users agree to accept the school's "Acceptable Use" policy. It is important to remember that whatever activity the staff are using ICT for, staff are borrowing school equipment. The school will monitor usage and traffic across the system.

## **7.0 Child Protection and Pupil/Student development**

7.1 It is the responsibility of all employees to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

7.2 The school is committed to providing an environment where children can play, learn, develop and achieve and where they are safeguarded and are enabled to tell or communicate if they are being harmed in some way. The school is committed to ensuring that all staff are sensitive to issues of race, culture, gender and diversity ensuring these issues are never a barrier to sharing and reporting concerns about children.

7.3 All employees including, temporary and supply staff, , volunteers and staff working on site employed by other services and agencies have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and must be aware of and fully conversant with the relevant school policies (Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy).

7.4 The policy and other information on Child Protection, can be found on the school website, on the main server in 'policies' and in the main office. Please ensure that you are familiar with the policy and know how to report any concerns.

7.5 In all instances where you have a concern about a child's well-being, no matter how trivial you may feel it may be, it is your duty to report this concern in line with the school's Child Protection Policy. If you are unsure who to tell, then see your immediate line manager for guidance.

7.6 Employees must not give lifts to students in their car, unless authorised by the Headteacher.

7.7 Employees must never leave students unattended in rooms. Always lock classrooms when you have left the room, and make sure you or an adult is the last to leave. If you discover an unlocked classroom or office, please lock it, and report it to the office.

7.8 Employees must only use staff toilets, and students must only use student toilets. Adult visitors must only use the staff toilets, and child visitors must only use student toilets.

7.9 Child Protection training will be delivered as part of school INSET programme and on-going training to be developed to meet the needs of the school.

7.10 Employees must not demean or undermine pupils, their parents or carers, or colleagues.

7.11 Employees must take reasonable care of pupils/students under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

7.12 The name of the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection can be found in the Child Protection Policy and on the school website.

## **Pupil**

7.13 Employees must comply with school policies and procedures that support the well-being and development of pupils/students.

7.14 Employees must co-operate and collaborate with colleagues and with external agencies where necessary to support the development of pupils/students.

7.15 Employees must follow reasonable instructions that support the development of pupils/students.

## **Photography and filming**

7.16 All employees must:

not take school equipment, such as cameras, out of school without permission from the Headteacher/SLT, for example for a school trip

be clear about the purpose of the activity and about what will happen to the images when the activity is concluded

be able to justify images of children in their possession

avoid making images in one to one situations or which show a single child with no surrounding context

ensure the child/young person understands why the images are being taken and has agreed to the activity and that they are appropriately dressed

only use equipment provided or authorised by the organisation

report any concerns about any inappropriate or intrusive photographs found

always ensure they have parental permission to take and/or display photographs

never display or distribute images of children unless parent/carer consent has been received

never use images which may cause distress

never use mobile telephones to take images of children

never take images 'in secret', or take images in situations that may be construed as being secretive.

### **Inappropriate teaching material / content**

7.17 Employees must only show resources which are age appropriate. Employees showing films that are PG or above, must be checked beforehand to ensure that the section of the film that is being shown does not include any inappropriate scenes of a violent or sexual nature.

7.18 Employees must not allow students to act out / role play / discuss scenarios of a sexual nature or allow students to act out / role play scenes of a violent nature unless as part of a planned lesson and are checked beforehand. Professional judgement must be exercised to ensure the planned lesson, relevant teaching material and methods are age appropriate and checked with the relevant member of the school leadership team.

### **Physical contact with students and use of "reasonable force"**

7.19 In rare circumstances employees may be required to use their professional judgement and exercise physical restraint on a student who is an immediate danger to him/herself or to others.

7.20 Employees are expected to be familiar with the school's behaviour management policy which must be followed at all times.

7.21 Physical restraint must not be used unless absolutely necessary. The types of force which are deemed by the DfE to be reasonable are:

passive physical contact resulting from standing between two pupils

active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the hand or arm; ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of his/her back; or, in more extreme circumstances, using appropriate restrictive holds.

Employees should not:

bar door ways or corridors to stop a student leaving unless there is reason to believe the student is about to commit a dangerous act such as harm another student.

act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)

involve other pupils in the restraint

touch or hold the pupil in sexual areas

twist or force limbs back against a joint

bend fingers or pull hair

hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck

slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil.

7.22 If employees have recourse to use physical restraint they must report this immediately to the Headteacher or another senior member of staff.

## **8.0 Relationships at work**

8.1 People who work together often form personal friendships and, in some cases, romantic relationships. While personal friendships at work are generally to be encouraged, a romantic relationship between colleagues who work together can sometimes result in actual or potential difficulties. Where there is the possibility that such a relationship could interfere with an individual's objectivity when making decisions or behaviour at work, the matter becomes the rightful concern of the organisation and the steps outlined below must be taken.

8.2 Similar problems can arise if two employees who are related to one another work together, either in the same department or in positions requiring that they liaise and cooperate over work matters and the points below also applies to this circumstance.

## **Employees' relationships with Councillors and School Governors**

8.3 Where a relationship occurs, the employee must bring it to the attention of the Headteacher/Chair of Governors personally and in confidence so that the implications for the Council/school can be discussed and action taken to avoid any difficulties it may present.

8.4 Employees must not contact school governors over the Headteacher about personal employment issues. They should speak to their Headteacher and go through established procedures such as appraisal, grievance and appeal procedures. Employees can also seek advice from their trade union.

8.5 This does not interfere with the employees' rights, if they are Islington residents, to correspond with their ward Councillors or constituency MPs on ward and constituency matters.

## **Managers' relationships with their staff members**

8.6 Where such a relationship occurs, the manager/Headteacher must bring it to the attention of the Headteacher/Chair of Governors personally and in confidence so that the implications for the school can be discussed and action taken to avoid any difficulties it may present. This includes segregation of duties.

## **Relationships between an employee and their child/grandchild**

8.7 Employees are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, sensitive and confidential manner at all times.

8.8 Where a relationship exists between an employee and their child/grandchild (whether a colleague or a child enrolled at the school), the employee must bring it to the attention of the Headteacher/Chair of Governors personally and in confidence so that the implications for the school can be discussed and action taken to avoid any difficulties it may present. This includes segregation of duties.

## **Conflicts of interest arising from any connection employees or their close relations may have with a contractor/partner**

8.9 Managers must make sure that ethical standards are embedded in the school's relationships with stakeholders, including outside bodies and partners. External suppliers

and service providers are required to operate to public sector standards e.g. not offering or providing inappropriate gifts or hospitality to school employees or governors.

8.10 Contracts must be awarded on merit, by fair competition against other tenderers in accordance with the school's procurement rules, and no special favour must be shown to businesses run by, for example, friends, partners and relatives.

8.11 Employees, who have responsibility for engaging or supervising contractors, or have any other official relationship with them, must declare any past or current relationships with them (including private, professional and/or domestic relationships) to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

8.12 Employees must notify their Headteacher or Chair of Governors of any relationship (business or private) they or a close relative may have, or may have had, with an external contractor or potential contractor, so that the implications for the school can be discussed and action taken to avoid any difficulties it may present.

### **Conflicts of interest arising at School Governor meetings**

8.13 All school governor meeting agendas contain a standard item for governors, associates and any other person present to disclose any personal or business interests that they may have in any agenda item.

8.14 Employees must declare a financial or non-financial interest in an issue if they are advising or otherwise participating in debate (this does not negate the need to make a written notification in the school's register of pecuniary interests);

Employees who are unsure whether or not to disclose information

8.15 Employees must ask their Headteacher/Chair of Governors for advice if there is any doubt as to whether or not information should be disclosed. Advice can also be sought from Schools HR and the trade union.

### **9.0 Selection and recruitment (including equal opportunities) and other employment matters**

9.1 Employees involved in the recruitment and appointment of employees must ensure that appointments are made on the basis of merit. In order to avoid any accusation of bias,

employees must not be involved in any selection process involving a prospective employee, to whom they are related or with whom they have a close personal relationship outside work.

9.2 All school appointments must be made on merit and in accordance with the schools' Safer Recruitment' Guidance.

### **Providing references**

9.3 References given to other employers on behalf of the school must be signed by the Headteacher, or other nominated senior manager, on school headed paper. Employees may give personal references but these must never be on school stationery and must not imply that they are school references - any personal reference must make it clear that it is provided on a personal basis.

## **10.0 Outside commitments and personal interests**

### **Conflicts of interest between employees' activities outside and inside work**

10.1 Employees must not allow their private interests or beliefs to conflict with their professional duty.

10.2 Employees' off-duty hours are their personal concern, but they must not allow private interests to interfere with their school duties or put themselves in a position where they may appear to conflict.

10.3 Employees must:

inform the Headteacher or Chair of Governors of any financial and non-financial interest the employee may have, if they think that it might bring about some conflict with their work

inform the Headteacher or Chair of Governors of any out of work activities which interfere with his or her ability to perform his or her professional duties, is not in the school's best interests, undermines public confidence in the school's affairs or might potentially bring the school into disrepute

report any family tie, or other relationship, with an organisation (or people who work for that organisation) if the employee, in any way, provides advice to governors or senior management on the management or funding of that organisation or is involved in the administration of the contract or other arrangement governing the school's relationship with the organisation.

## **Conduct outside of school hours - propriety and behaviour of staff**

10.4 All school staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children and young people. Their conduct inside and outside work must never undermine the trust and confidence the public and the school need to have in them to carry out their work properly and conscientiously. They should be aware that behaviour in their personal lives may impact upon their work with children and young people.

This means that staff should not:

behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or act as a role model

make or encourage others to make, unprofessional personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate, or which might be interpreted as such.

10.5 The school has no immediate jurisdiction over the activities that staff undertake outside of school hours and off the premises. However this advice is aimed at minimising the risk of accusations of unprofessional or unsafe conduct. In particular:

be aware of the content you post and access on social networking sites such as Facebook

be aware that content you posted in the past can still be accessed by others and could compromise your integrity

be cautious when out socialising in the local area

conduct yourself with dignity and propriety on public transport.

10.6 School staff are seen as role models for young people, whether we are at work or not. We have a duty to maintain high levels of confidence from the school community about our ability to keep children safe and our ability to guide young people to make positive life choices.

## **11.0 Financial procedures and use of financial resources**

11.1 Appropriate employees must:

ensure that they use any public funds entrusted to them in a responsible and lawful manner

always try to obtain value for money and avoid legal challenge to the school

be conversant with and comply with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

11.2 Headteachers must make sure that their employees are aware of and comply with the Schools' Financial Regulations. They must ensure that the financial procedures and practices for which they are responsible conform to the Council's regulations and are secure against theft and fraud.

11.3 Headteachers must ensure that employees working in a post which has been identified as one in which work routinely involves them in the decision making process, for example, in respect of procurement by the school, must complete the standard declaration of interests form within 28 days of taking up their appointment. These employees should be asked to review and update their declaration of interest annually.

### **Best value, tendering, outsourcing, partnerships etc.**

11.4 Employees who are involved in tendering, outsourcing, partnerships, the awarding of contracts, dealing with contractors, etc. must:

be aware of and follow the procurement rules set out in the relevant procedures

be clear on the separation of client and service-provider roles

not disclose confidential information to any unauthorised party or organisation

exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with potential service providers

not participate in any employee/management buy-out of Council or school services without the written express approval of the Council/school or within two years of leaving employment of the Council/school

not show special favour to current or former employees or their partners, friends, relatives, or associates in outsourcing to businesses run by them in a senior or relevant managerial capacity

discuss any problems with their Headteacher or Chair of Governors if they are unclear whether or not they may be compromised in relation to the awarding of contracts

## **12.0 School property**

12.1 Employees must:

only use school property, vehicles or other facilities for school purposes and according to instructions

not remove school property, including laptops and phones, from school premises unless authorised to do so

secure school property against theft/loss/damage, ensuring that valuable items such as keys, money, credit cards, mobiles, wallets, personal bags, laptops and other valuable items are looked after properly and never left untended even for short periods

report any theft/loss/damage of school property  
never hand school keys or swipe cards to students.

12.2 The loss or theft of any computer or confidential data must be reported immediately to the Headteacher or School Business Manager.

12.3 The Headteacher must inform the Governing Body/Chief Internal Auditor of any theft of school property and s/he will advise on whether or not the police should be involved.

12.4 The school's property includes its "Intellectual property" which includes inventions, creative writings and drawings, including those created by an employee in the course of their duties.

12.5 The school does not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to personal property or school property in the care of an individual colleague. Cars, bicycles and other means of personal transport are parked or left on the campus at the owner's risk.

### **13.0 Gifts, rewards and sanctions**

13.1 Although school staff may receive 'thank you' gifts from pupils at the end of the term, it is serious misconduct for employees to corruptly receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage for doing, or not doing, anything in connection with their duties. This also applies to showing favour or disfavour. If it is alleged that an employee has corruptly accepted such a reward it will be for her/him to demonstrate that this is not the case.

13.2 Hospitality includes drinks, meals, entertainment, overnight accommodation, travel and holidays, but not a lift in a private or company car or in a taxi, or light refreshment in the course of duties.

13.3 The following rules apply to any gifts and hospitality, including those provided on a basis where employees reimburse all or any part of the costs.

13.4 Employees must not accept or solicit from any member of the public or school community with whom the school has had, is having, or may in the future have any dealings:

any gift (other than an inexpensive seasonal gift, such as a calendar or diary for use in the office) or

any hospitality without the written authorisation of their Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

13.5 The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will not accept or authorise the acceptance of any such hospitality unless they are satisfied that the hospitality is not offered with any intention to corrupt, or could be seen to be intended to corrupt, and its acceptance is in the interests of the Council/school. As a general rule, participation in activities paid for by firms outside school working hours or whilst on leave is not considered to be commensurate with employment with the Council/school.

13.6 All employees must record any gift or hospitality they are offered or receive with a value of £25 or more or exceeding such other limits as notified from time to time. This includes any gift or hospitality that is declined or donated, for example to school fundraising events.

13.7 Staff should not solicit or accept any gift, loan, fee, hospitality or other reward which influences the way in which they carry out their duties. They should not influence or be influenced unfairly in the way they carry out their duties by ties of kinship or friendship, or by some other association or loyalty.

### **Rewards and sanctions**

13.8 Employees should use only the rewards and sanctions as outlined in the school's agreed Behaviour for Learning policy. For example, the following sanctions are not part of our agreed policy:

Writing lines

Standing in the corner of a room

Standing outside the classroom

13.9 Employees should not give gifts to students. However, if students are on occasion rewarded with small prizes such as chocolate, the employee's line manager should be made aware of the reasons for the prize.

### **14.0 Sponsorship - giving and receiving**

14.1 Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor a school activity, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic conventions concerning acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.

Where the school wishes to sponsor an event or service, no employee nor any partner, spouse or relative must benefit from such sponsorship, directly or indirectly, without there

being full disclosure to Headteacher and Governors of any such interest. Similarly, where the school through sponsorship, grant aid, financial or other means, gives support in the community, employees must ensure that impartial advice is given and there is no conflict of interest involved.

## **15.0 Confidentiality and disclosure of information**

15.1 Although the school aims to operate in an open and transparent way, some information held by the school is confidential or sensitive and therefore not appropriate to a wide audience and the school may be subject to statutory or common law obligations to keep it confidential. On the other hand, the school is also subject to obligations to release information in some circumstances, for example under the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Employees' responsibilities for confidential information**

15.2 The Headteacher must make sure that they have secure systems in their work place to safeguard confidential information and that employees maintain confidentiality at all times. They must also comply with the schools policies and practices under the Data Protection Act 1998.

15.3 Employees must:

be aware of the implications of the Data Protection Act 1998 on the use, maintenance, transfer and disclosure of personal information about employees and the public

not disclose any confidential information (including intellectual property) to anyone outside the Council/school, and make sure that this information is kept securely. This applies while working for the Council/school and after they leave

not disclose confidential information to colleagues unless there is proper authority

take all reasonable steps to protect and safeguard confidential documents etc, particularly if they need to be taken outside the usual workplace.

### **Personal information about colleagues**

15.4 Employees must keep personal details and work records of other employees confidential, and must not reveal these to third parties without authority, or unless the permission of the employees concerned has been obtained, or where it is required by law.

## Giving information to the media

15.5 Under no circumstances should employees communicate directly with the media (e.g. national and local papers, press agencies, radio, television stations, professional journals) about their work, or matters concerning the Council/school, unless specifically authorised to do so by the Headteacher/Chair of Governors.

15.6 Employees must refer any approach by the media for an interview, an article and/or comment on Council/school affairs, to the Headteacher or the Council's Communications Officers.

15.7 Nothing in these paragraphs prevents senior trade union officials from contacting the media in relation to appropriate trade union activities.

## 16.0 Malpractice/ fraud/ corruption/ whistleblowing (Public Interest Disclosure Act)

16.1 Where an employee becomes aware of activities which that employee believes to be illegal, improper, unethical or otherwise inconsistent with this Code, the employee should report the matter under the School's Whistleblowing Policy. This policy sets out the protection available to employees who make disclosures and the protection available under the law.

	<h1>Code of Conduct Policy</h1>	
<b>Review Date</b>	January 2018	
<b>Reviewed by</b>	Terri Higgins, Head Teacher	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	January 2019	
<b>Date Approved by Governors</b>		
<b>Governor's Signature</b>	<b>Please print name</b>	<b>Role</b>