



Staff Code of Conduct

School: Emerge School, Stoke-on-Trent

Policy Lead: Headteacher – Sarah Mason

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Part A: Policy statement

1. Introduction

The school expects the highest standards of personal and professional conduct from all employees. As such the school requires all employees to act in a manner which reflects the value and ethos of the school.

Employees must ensure that their behaviour and actions are consistent with their position as a role model to pupils/students and are compatible with working with young people and in a school setting. Employees must act with integrity, honesty and demonstrate ethical and respectful working practices towards pupils, colleagues, parents/carers and other members of the school community.

All employees have a responsibility to observe appropriate professional boundaries and act at all times in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of pupils. Employees must disclose any relevant information which may impact on their job role or suitability to work with young people or in a school setting. The school requires employees to adhere to all school policies and observe the highest standards of business/financial practice.

Each employee has an individual responsibility to act in a manner which upholds the school's name in providing effective and professional education to pupils and protects its reputation to do the same with confidence in the local community. Employees are accountable for their actions and conduct and should seek advice from their Line Manager/Headteacher/People Team if they are not sure of the appropriate action to take. Employees should be aware that a failure to comply with the following Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action being considered. A serious breach could potentially result in dismissal.

This policy explains the school's expectations with regards to the conduct of employees in the following areas:

- Professional conduct
- Safeguarding Pupils / Students
- Use of ICT & Social Media
- Business conduct
- Colleague communications

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all current employees of Emerge School. This policy should also be adhered to by all volunteers/supply and agency workers engaged by the school. Reference to the management role of the Headteacher in this policy, this may include his/her identified nominee. In the case of the Headteacher this management function is



undertaken by the Chair of the Proprietary Board and representatives of the Proprietary and Governance members. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Company's Disciplinary Policy which provides examples of acts which are likely to be regarded as misconduct/gross misconduct. Reference to 'employees' in this document should be considered to also include all volunteers /supply and agency workers. It does not include the Proprietary Board for whom separate arrangements apply.

3. Adoption and approval arrangements and date

This policy was adopted and approved by the Proprietary Board in September 2026 and supersedes any previous Code of Conduct. This policy will be reviewed each year or earlier if there is a need.

4. Responsibilities of the school

- Explain the provisions of the Code of Conduct to employees and signpost employees to other relevant policies, document and guidelines.
- Provide additional advice and guidance to employees in relation to queries they may have regarding the application of the Code of Conduct.
- Coach, support and provide feedback to employees on their performance in relation to the required standards of conduct.
- Take appropriate action at the earliest opportunity to address breaches of the expected standards of conduct.

5. Responsibilities of the employee

- To read, understand and comply with the Code of Conduct at all times.
- To use this code, alongside other relevant Company policies and professional codes, to guide them in their role.
- To seek guidance from the Headteacher/Line Manager/People Team (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.
- To alert the Headteacher/People Team (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Principal/Headteacher) at the earliest opportunity where an employee believes they may have acted in a manner which is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and other relevant school policies and professional codes.

6. Reference to other sources of information

This Code of Conduct is not exhaustive and does not replace the general requirements of the law, common sense and good conduct. The Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with a number of associated policies relating to conduct which are set out throughout this document.

All employees must ensure they have read, understood and comply with:



- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).
- KCSIE Section Two – Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold.

Further guidance regarding Safeguarding is in Part C of this document. Employees must also have due regard to other professional codes, policies and guidance which may be relevant to their specific role.

Part B: Professional conduct

7. General

Employees are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. Employees are required to work in a diligent and conscientious manner. Employees are expected to work to the requirements of their job and are required to respect managerial authority and follow reasonable instructions. Employees must conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the ethos and values school of Emerge School and adhere to Company policies and procedures at all times.

Employees should ensure they work their contracted hours and are expected to maintain a high level of attendance and punctuality.

8. Honesty and integrity

Employees must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work. Employees should not behave in a manner which would lead a reasonable person to call into question their motivation or intentions. During the course of their work employees should ensure they do not:

- Wilfully provide false/misleading information.
- Destroy or alter information/records without proper authorisation.
- Wilfully withhold information or conceal matters which they could reasonably be expected to have disclosed.
- Misrepresent the school or their position.
- Accept or offer any form of bribe / inducement or engage in any other corrupt working practice.

Should an employee become aware of any conduct on the part of a colleague which raises concerns regarding health and safety, safeguarding or criminal activity they have a duty to disclose this. Allegations concerning fraudulent, dishonest or corrupt practices or the falsification or withholding of information will be investigated under the Company's Disciplinary Policy and formal disciplinary action taken where appropriate.



9. Setting an example

School employees are role models and must strive to adhere to behaviour that sets a good example to all the pupils/students within the school and is appropriate in a school setting. This includes:

- Refraining from abusive or potentially offensive/discriminatory language or actions (the use of profanity, vulgar expressions, personal insults, violence, harassment for example, will be considered unacceptable).
- Being mindful and sensitive to the customs, practices, culture and personal belief of others.
- Positively contributing to the creation of a fair and inclusive work environment where everyone can thrive and do their best work.
- Demonstrating tolerance and respects towards others by being mindful and sensitive to the customs, practices, culture and personal belief of others.
- Contributing to the creation of a fair and inclusive school environment where everyone can thrive and do their best work.
- Observing boundaries appropriate to their role and a school setting.
- Ensuring any topics of conversation with pupils/students are suitable to the school setting / curriculum.
- Not undermining fundamental British values.
- Ensuring personal/political opinions or beliefs do not impact on the discharge of duties and/or are not expressed in a way which exploits pupils/students vulnerability or seeks to unduly influence.
- Maintaining high standards of personal presentation, attendance and punctuality.

Should employees be in doubt about the appropriateness of their behaviour they should seek guidance from the Headteacher (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) or People Team. Breaches of expected behaviour may be considered under the disciplinary procedure; this may result in formal disciplinary action including dismissal.

10. Confidentiality

Employees may have access to confidential or sensitive information about pupils /students, colleagues or the business and operation of the school as part of their job role. Such information must not be disclosed to any person who is not entitled to have access to this or legitimately needs it for work purposes.

Specifically, all employees must:

- Work in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and associated legislation.



- Observe the school's procedures for the release of information to other agencies and members of the public.
- Not use or share confidential information inappropriately or for personal gain.
- Not speak inappropriately about the school community, pupils, parents, employees or governors including discussing incidents, operational or employment matters with parents / members of the public.
- Ensure all confidential data is kept secure and password protected.

Should employees be in doubt about the appropriateness of sharing information they should seek guidance from the Headteacher/People Team.

11. Working relationships & relationships with other stakeholders/community

The school expects employees to maintain positive and professional working relationships. Colleagues, pupils, parents and other stakeholders should be treated with dignity and respect. Employees should be polite and courteous in their interactions with parents/pupils and other stakeholders/members of the school community. The school has policies which outline how we will communicate effectively and considerately with parents and employees. Employees should follow the Communications Policy. Behaviour which constitutes bullying and harassment, intimidation, victimisation, discrimination or abuse of authority will not be tolerated and may be addressed via the Company's Harassment and Bullying Policy and/or Disciplinary Policy. This includes physical and verbal abuse, sexual harassment (dealt with under the Company's Sexual Harassment Policy) and use of inappropriate language (for example the use of profanities or vulgar expressions) or unprofessional behaviour (for example being rude or hostile) with colleagues, pupils and parents.

Employees should treat all stakeholders in a fair and equitable way and not behave in a manner which may demean, distress, offend or discriminate against others. Employees should ensure that policies relating to equality issues are complied with. Employees should be aware of the school's Complaint Procedure and address any concerns from parents/pupils and other stakeholders in accordance with this document.

12. Conduct outside of the workplace

The school recognises that employees are entitled to their private lives. In general, the choices and actions of employees outside of their job role are not the school's concern. However, in order to protect all parties, there are exceptions to this. All employees working in the school community must be mindful that they have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their own and the school's ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children and young people. It is therefore, expected that they will adopt high standards



of personal conduct in order to maintain the confidence and respect of the public in general and all those with whom they work.

In this regard employees must not engage in conduct outside of work which has the potential to:

- Affect or is likely to affect the suitability of the employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting.
- Impact on the operation or reputation or standing of the school.
- Impact on the operation or reputation of the school's relationship with its employees, parents, pupils, or other stakeholders.
- Seriously undermine the trust and confidence that the school has in the employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting. In particular, criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable. Concerns related to an employee's actions or inactions outside of work will be reasonably considered in light of the employee's job role, and the potential impact of the employee's suitability to do their job within the context of the school community. If relevant, formal action may be considered under the Company's Disciplinary Policy.

Depending on the seriousness of any established concerns dismissal may be a potential outcome.

13. Duty to disclose

All employees have a duty to immediately disclose to the Headteacher/People Team (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) prior to the start of their employment, at the start of their employment or during the course of their employment, any change in their circumstances or any information which may affect or is likely to affect the suitability of the employee to undertake their job role or work with children/ young people or in a school setting.

This includes, but is not restricted to:

- the employee being subject to any police investigation/enquiry, arrest, ban, charge, caution, reprimand, warning, fine or pending prosecution or criminal conviction. This includes any actions committed overseas which would be subject to a police investigation or formal action if such actions had been committed in any part of the United Kingdom.
- the employee being subject to any referral, made to, or any investigation, proceedings, or prohibition order being undertaken by the Teaching Regulation Agency, General Teaching Council for Scotland, or the Education Workforce Council in Wales.



- the employee being subject to the inclusion on the DBS Children's Barred List and any change in DBS status during employment, or any referral, made to, or any, investigation or proceedings being undertaken by the DBS.
- the employee being subject to any referral, made to, or any investigation, proceedings, or prohibition order being undertaken by any other regulatory or professional authorities or actions of other agencies relating to child protection and/or safeguarding concerns.
- the employee being subject to any orders made in relation to the care of children, the refusal or cancellation of registration relating to childcare, or children's homes, or being prohibited from private fostering.
- the employee being subject to any 'live' disciplinary process, formal sanction or any other relevant information arising from a previous or current secondary employment/voluntary work which may impact on the employee's suitability to undertake their role or work with children/young people or in a school setting. This includes substantiated safeguarding allegations.
- the employee's close personal relationships outside of the workplace presenting a 'risk by association' to the safeguarding of children/young people. This list is not exhaustive. Should an employee be unclear about whether it is appropriate to disclose a matter they are encouraged to seek guidance from the Headteacher (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) at the earliest opportunity. The school acknowledges the obligation to disclose protected convictions and cautions is governed by the requirements of the Rehabilitation of Offences Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013). Prospective employees should be aware that when applying for particular jobs and activities, certain convictions and cautions are considered 'protected'. This means that they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Employees are advised that guidance about whether a conviction or caution should be disclosed can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Employees must also report any current or historical information in the public domain or which is likely to come into the public domain which may be of relevance to their job role or their suitability to work with children/young people or in a school setting or matters which may be subject to adverse media attention or have a detrimental impact on the reputation of the school. Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009.

In addition, in the case of individuals who work with, or manage the education of, early years pupils (under the age of five) during school hours, and children up to the age of eight in relation to activities outside of the school day (for example breakfast or after school club employees), the following legislative provisions also apply.

In accordance with the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (Section 75 of the Childcare Act 2006) an employee should immediately disclose to the Headteacher



(Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) if, at any point during their employment, they are disqualified from providing childcare provision or being involved in the management of such provision, including where any application for an Ofsted waiver from disqualification has been made, regardless of whether such an application was successful.

Such employees also have a duty to ensure that they are fully aware of their obligations and will be asked by the school to confirm that they understand and comply with these provisions.

Further guidance relating to Employee's obligations under the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 including details of the relevant offences which must be disclosed to the school is available online. Employees should seek clarification from the Headteacher (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher) if they are unclear whether they are required to disclose certain information under this provision. How the school will respond to employee disclosures will be handled sensitively and discretely, and with regard to data protection considerations. The Headteacher/People Team will consider carefully any disclosure which is made and the appropriate response. This may result in a suspension from duties with normal pay while an investigation/risk assessment takes place or Ofsted waiver application made (where applicable). Suspension is not a sanction in itself and does not represent any prejudgement of the outcome of the response to the disclosure. In instances where the information disclosed constitutes a risk to the safeguarding of children/young people or is incompatible with an employee's job role or their suitability to work with children/young people in a school setting, termination of employment may be considered, following due process.

Any failure to disclose any information required in the course of employment or any other information that may have a bearing on an individual's suitability to carry out their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting may be the subject of disciplinary action which could lead to dismissal.

14. Secondary employment

Employees should ensure that any external paid or unpaid work does not conflict with their duty to the school or pose a potential to damage the employee's own or the educational settings reputation with the context of their job role and seniority. Employees must discuss with their Headteacher/People Team and obtain their consent before taking up additional paid/unpaid employment or engaging in any other business. Requests will not be unreasonably refused providing that:

- It does not affect or is unlikely to affect the suitability of the employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting.



- There is no detrimental impact on an employee's work performance or their own or others health and safety.
- Privileged or confidential information is not shared.
- Work is undertaken outside of the school and of contracted hours of work.
- The activity is not in direct competition with those of the school. If school employees work for another organisation or as a PA for a pupil, they must not act as a messenger between that organisation and the school. Formal channels of communication must be maintained. School employees with secondary employment must sign a secondary employment confidentiality agreement (available on request from the People Team). It is an employee's responsibility to monitor the hours they work and ensure they are rested and refreshed to be able to carry out their role. An average working week of 48 hours across all employments should not normally be exceeded unless the employee has elected to opt out of the Working Time Regulations.

15. Dress and presentation

An individual's dress and appearance is a matter of personal choice. However, all employees must ensure their dress, personal appearance and standard of personal hygiene is appropriate to the nature of their role at Emerge School and promotes a professional image. Employees should be mindful of setting a good example to both pupils and visitors.

Dress should be appropriate to the activities an employee is engaged in and any related health and safety requirements. Suitable protective equipment must be worn where provided and appropriate. Uniforms should be worn where provided. Employees should wear their identity badges at all times whilst in the workplace. Employees should dress in a manner that is not offensive, revealing or sexually provocative. Employees should dress in a manner that is absent from political slogans, offensive language or other contentious symbols, wording or imagery. Finger nails need to be considered an appropriate length (including acrylics).

The school recognises the diversity of cultures and religions of its employees and will take a sensitive approach where this affects dress and uniform requirements.

16. Smoking and the use of drugs and alcohol

The school is a non-smoking environment. Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes or "vaping" is not allowed on school premises or during working time. Employees should also refrain from smoking immediately outside of the school entrances. Employees must not consume alcohol or use illegal drugs in the workplace or be under the influence of such substances whilst at work. This includes the use of 'legal highs' or psychoactive substances. Employees must ensure that any use of alcohol/illegal drugs outside of work does not adversely affect their work performance, attendance, conduct, working relationships, health and safety of themselves and others or damage the school's image.



and reputation. Employees are expected to behave in a manner which would not lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or act as a role model. For example, presenting for work with clothing or breath smelling of alcohol or drugs is likely to raise reputational concerns.

If an Employee has a drug or alcohol dependency which is impacting on their work or has the potential to impact on their work, they should discuss this with the Principal/Headteacher. Where an employee engages with the school regarding addressing their dependency, consideration will be given on how to best to support the employee. External advice may be sought prior to or during the implementation of the Company's Disciplinary Policy where conduct issues arise due to alcohol or drug use.

Employees should refer to the Company's Alcohol and Drugs Policy for further information and guidance.

17. Health and safety at work

All employees must, by law, take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace. Employees are required to comply with the Company's Health and Safety policy and agreed procedures at all times. This includes:

- avoiding risk of injury or danger to yourself or others.
- using any protective clothing and equipment supplied.
- complying with hygiene requirements.
- reporting, at the earliest opportunity, any hazards, defects, accidents or incidents to the Principal/Headteacher or other designated person.
- not interfering with, or misusing, anything provided for health, safety or welfare.
- informing the school of any medical condition or medication which has been prescribed which may have an impact on health and safety in the workplace.

Employees with specific additional responsibilities and those in managerial roles should also be aware of and comply with any additional health and safety obligations associated with their role.

Employees should inform their manager if they have a medical condition or are taking prescription medication which may impair their work performance or affect their health and safety or that of others.

18. Contact with the media

All enquiries from the media should be directed to the Headteacher. Employees should not make contact with or comment to the media about matters relating to the school without the prior approval of the Headteacher. Employees should speak to the Principal/Headteacher in the first instance about any concerns they have regarding their own employment or operation of the school and/or may refer to the Company's



Whistleblowing or Grievance policies if they wish to raise a formal complaint. Should an employee speak directly to the media about non-school matters care should be taken to ensure that any opinions expressed are personal and that the individual is not acting on behalf of/representing the school. Any contact with the media in a personal capacity should be compatible with the employee's role and their position working with children/young people or in a school setting and must not negatively impact on the reputation of the school.

19. Whistleblowing

Employees may raise concerns about any aspect of the operation of the school which is not directly related to their own employment through the Whistleblowing Policy. Employees raising a concern with reasonable grounds for doing so will not be subject to discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

20. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in further action being taken, as set out in the Company's Disciplinary Policy. Employees should ensure they are familiar with type of conduct which may be regarded as a breach of school rules.

Examples of behaviours which are likely to be regarded to constitute misconduct/gross misconduct are set out in the Company's Disciplinary Policy. Allegations of misconduct/gross misconduct will be managed in accordance with the Company's Disciplinary Policy.

Part C: Safeguarding pupils

21. General Obligations

It is essential that everybody working in a school understands their safeguarding responsibilities. All employees have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard pupils/students from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.
- Promote the welfare of pupils/students and provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Report as soon as possible and without delay any concerns regarding child protection/safeguarding to the Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher).



All employees must ensure they have read, understood and comply with:

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in (KCSIE)
- KCSIE Section Two - concerns which do not meet the harm threshold
- Safeguarding Policy
- Relational Support Policy

All school policies listed above can be accessed on the school's website under 'Policies'. Employees must attend and comply with any training as required by the school associated with the safeguarding of pupils/students.

22. Appropriate relationships with students

Employees must maintain appropriate professional boundaries with pupils/students. Employees are expected to act in an open and transparent way that would not lead any reasonable person to suspect their actions or intent. In order to protect both children and themselves, employees should also avoid behaviour that might be misinterpreted by others. Where concerns are raised appropriate fact finding will be undertaken before considering whether further formal action is warranted under the Company's Disciplinary Policy.

23. Allegations against employees and volunteers

All employees have a duty to report to the Headteacher/DSL/DDSL's at the earliest opportunity the conduct of a colleague who may have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children and/or;
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Failure to report such concerns may be regarded as a disciplinary matter. Where the concerns relate to the Headteacher then they should be reported to the Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board. Some concerns may not meet the above thresholds and maybe dealt with as a 'low level' concern. The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant. A low-level concern is any concern - no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the employee's Code of Conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work which has the potential to impact on their suitability to work with children considering their job role; and



- does not meet the harm threshold or is otherwise not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO. Employees are advised that the details of “low level concerns” may be shared with the LADO enquiry service to support the school in its decision making regarding any actions which may be appropriate. This permits concerns to be evaluated objectively and to ascertain whether concerns of a similar nature may have already been reported to other schools or the Local Authority. Low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. The record will include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. Any records will be held securely and confidentially until the employee leaves employment and for 6 years after this date. Records will be held in accordance with Data Protection and GDPR regulations 24 Guidance for Safer Working Practice Employees are required to read, understand and comply with the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with Children and Young People in Education Settings.

This document explains the school’s specific expectations with regard to safeguarding pupils / students and contains practical guidance on behaviours which constitute safe working practice. Employees should seek immediate guidance from their Headteacher/Line Manager/People Team if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.

24. Other safeguarding considerations

All employees should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm and how to deal with these accordingly. These include:

- Child on Child abuse - including bullying (cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
- Sexual Violence & Harassment - abuse of intimate relationships, physical abuse, sexual abuse & harassment, non-consensual sexual activity/sharing of images, upskirting and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).
- Domestic Abuse - including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.
- Mental Health - including the impact of suffering abuse or neglect.
- Radicalisation - including the Prevent agenda.
- Serious Violence - including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honour-based abuse and forced marriage.

Employees are guided to refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022) for further information.

Part D: ICT and social media

Employees will ensure that use of any mobile and smart technology, including personal phones and mobile devices, will take place in accordance with the law, as well as relevant school policy and procedures, such as confidentiality, child protection, data security, employees behaviour/code of conduct. Employees should ensure that they have read, understand and comply with the School's E-Safety and wider relevant Company policies, available from the People Team.

25. General obligations

Whilst at work or using a work device all employees must:

- Ensure that any content bought onto site via personal mobile phones and devices is compatible with their professional role and our behaviour expectations.
- Only use school provided equipment (not personal devices):
 - to take photos or videos of pupils in line with our image use policy.
 - to work directly with pupils during lessons/educational activities.
 - to communicate with parents/carers.
- Ensure all electronic communication with pupils/students, parents/carers, colleagues and other stakeholders is compatible with their professional role, appropriate boundaries and in line with school policies.
- Not to use work IT equipment to browse, create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material / images which is illegal, sexually explicit, obscene or could offend, harass or upset others or anything which could bring an employee's professional role or the school/local authority into disrepute.
- Not to use personal IT equipment to browse, create, transmit, display, publish or forward any materials/images which are illegal or could offend or harass others or anything which could bring an employee's professional role or the school/local authority into disrepute.
- Ensure that ICT system security is respected and password protocols are observed - including the use of strong passwords and encryption.
- Not install personal software on school equipment or make unauthorised copies of school registered software. Use of school internet, email and ICT equipment for personal purposes is not permitted. Employees should seek guidance from their Headteacher/Line Manager if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them. Breaches of expected use of ICT may be considered under the Company's Disciplinary Policy which may result in formal disciplinary sanctions, including dismissal.

26. Use of social media

Employees must ensure that their online presence/profile is compatible with their professional role. Employees are entitled to their private life but should be mindful that their online presence can be subject to public scrutiny. It is important that the wider community are confident that pupils are being educated by individuals who act in a professional and responsible manner online.

All employees should:

- Ensure appropriate privacy settings are applied when using social media sites.
- Refrain from sharing confidential/privileged information, discussing incidents, operational or employment matters or making critical/negative comments about the school/pupils/parents or colleagues on such forums.
- Not browse, create, transmit, display, publish, comment on or forward any material/images which is illegal, could offend or harass or anything which could bring an employee's professional role or the school/Local Authority into disrepute. For example, expressing controversial views related to protected characteristics such, as race, sex, disability, age or gender reassignment would be unacceptable.
- Never share/post images of pupils.
- Not post images of work colleagues without permission.
- Not access or update social media sites using school devices/during working time.
- Not use any images or videos on social media platforms which include any members of the school community without written permission.
- Ensure that their use of technology and the internet does not undermine their professional role.

Employees should not make contact with student/pupils or parents via social media accounts or have these individuals as social media 'friends'/'contacts'. It is also recommended that employees do not have ex-pupils or their families as social media 'friends'. Employees at schools can often have more complex relationships than just being employees. As examples, employees can also be parents (of pupils at the school), in relationships or have friendships with other employees or parents; or also governors. Employees are advised to report any pre-existing social media relationships to the Principal/Headteacher for their own protection. Employees should seek guidance from their Principal/Headteacher/Line Manager if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.

27. Use of personal mobile phones/devices

Employees are not permitted to make/receive personal calls/texts, send/receive emails or access internet/social media during work time where children are present. Employees should ensure that mobile devices are silent at all times whilst in the classroom or where children are present. Mobile devices should not be left on display.



Employees should not use their personal equipment (mobile phones/cameras/tablets) to take photos or make recordings of pupils/students.

Monitoring of Usage Emails, documents or browsing history on school systems should not be considered to be private and may be monitored and recorded to ensure the safety of pupils/students and ensure compliance with this policy. This monitoring will be proportionate and will take place in accordance with data protection/privacy legislation. The school may address concerns regarding unauthorised, unacceptable or inappropriate use of ICT systems/devices or social media as a disciplinary matter.

Part E: Business Conduct

28. Use of financial resources

The school requires employees to observe the highest standards of business/financial practice. Employees should ensure that school/public funds with which they are entrusted are used in a responsible and lawful manner. Employees must comply with the school's stipulated financial regulations and any other relevant policies/audit requirements. Appropriate authorisation should be sought for any expenditure and audit trail/suitable records kept. School monies, credit/debit cards and accounts should not be used for personal purposes. The use of personal credit cards/accounts to purchase goods and services on behalf of the school should be avoided unless prior agreement from the Headteacher/School Business Manager is obtained (Safeguarding Lead Governor, Chair of the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher). All expense claims for travel and subsistence should be appropriately authorised and accompanied by receipts/proof of purchase. Personal loyalty cards should not be used when making purchases on behalf of the school.

29. Personal use of equipment and resources

Employees may not make personal use of the school's property, materials or facilities unless authorised to do so by the Headteacher.

30. Declaration of interests

The school recognises that employees may wish to take an active role in the local community and undertake additional personal/business activities outside of work.

In the majority of instances such activities will have no impact on their role in school. However, on occasion there may be a potential conflict of interest. Employees should therefore declare annually to the Principal/Headteacher any financial or non-financial interests which may conflict with those of the school. Employees should also declare membership of any professional bodies/organisations which may conflict with their school role. Should employees be in doubt about whether a conflict of interest may exist they



should seek guidance from the Principal/Headteacher (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Principal/Headteacher).

31. Contracting out services

Employees should follow agreed school protocols for the award of contracts to external providers. Employees should adhere to school rules regarding the separation of roles in procurement/tendering process. In particular care should be taken to ensure competition between prospective contractors is fair and open and that all competing parties are treated equally. Employees should ensure that preferential treatment is not shown to current/former employees or partners, close relatives or friends/associates in the award of contracts. Employees must not accept any form of financial or other inducement which may be offered by a potential contractor. All such approaches should be reported to the Headteacher (or the Proprietary Board in the case of the Headteacher). Confidential information relating to the tendering process, must not be disclosed to any unauthorised party or organisation.

32. Gifts and hospitality

Employees are expected to act honestly, impartially and with integrity at all times. Gifts, hospitality or other benefits must never influence, or appear to influence, professional judgement, decision-making or the proper performance of an employee's duties.

Employees must not offer, request or accept any gift, hospitality, payment, reward, service or other benefit where they know, or reasonably suspect, that it is intended to secure favourable treatment, create an obligation or otherwise improperly influence a decision. This applies regardless of the value of the gift or hospitality.

Gifts and hospitality may only be accepted where they are lawful, reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances, offered openly and transparently and do not create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest. Cash or cash equivalents, including gift vouchers or prepaid cards, must not be accepted. These requirements reflect the Company's Anti-Bribery Policy.

Particular care must be taken in relation to gifts or hospitality offered by suppliers, contractors, prospective suppliers, parents, carers, families or other individuals or organisations with whom the School has a professional or commercial relationship. The value of a gift does not, in itself, determine whether it is appropriate to accept.

Employees may ordinarily accept modest and appropriate items such as:

- reasonable refreshments or hospitality provided in connection with legitimate school business or attendance at an official function;
- incidental promotional items of nominal value, such as pens, calendars or diaries; and



- modest token gifts of appreciation from pupils or families, such as chocolates or flowers, provided there is no reason to believe that the gift is intended to influence professional judgement or secure favourable treatment.

Any gift or hospitality exceeding £25 from a supplier or contractor, or £50 from an individual pupil, parent or family, must be declared to and approved by the Headteacher/School Business Manager and recorded in the School's Register of Gifts and Hospitality. Gifts from a group of pupils, parents or families with a combined value exceeding £100 must also be declared and recorded.

Regardless of value, any gift or hospitality which may give rise to an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest must be declared. Gifts or hospitality from suppliers or contractors should be approached with particular caution and, other than incidental promotional items of nominal value, should normally be declared before acceptance. The Company policy specifically identifies gifts or benefits from suppliers, contractors, parents and families as potential risks where they could reasonably be perceived as influencing professional judgement.

Employees must refuse:

- cash or cash equivalents, including gift vouchers;
- gifts or hospitality offered in return for favourable treatment or with the intention of influencing a decision;
- free goods, services, discounts, memberships or other benefits which could create an obligation or conflict of interest;
- excessive or inappropriate hospitality;
- any gift or benefit connected with a procurement, tendering, contracting, safeguarding, regulatory or other decision in which the employee may be involved; or
- any other gift, hospitality or benefit which could reasonably compromise, or be perceived as compromising, the employee's integrity or impartiality.

Employees must not give personal gifts to pupils. Any reward given to a pupil must form part of agreed School practice and must not be based on favouritism or create inappropriate personal boundaries.

Where there is any uncertainty about whether a gift or hospitality may be accepted, the employee must seek advice from the Headteacher/School Business Manager or People Team before accepting it wherever practicable.

Any actual or suspected bribery, improper inducement or inappropriate offer must be reported promptly to the Headteacher/School Business Manager and/or People Team and may also be raised under the Company's Whistleblowing Policy. The Company may investigate concerns and take disciplinary action where appropriate, including where conduct may amount to gross misconduct.



The Headteacher/School Business Manager is responsible for ensuring that gifts and hospitality requiring declaration are appropriately recorded and that any related conflict of interest is identified and addressed. Where the school receives sponsorship, this must not result in preferential treatment in any future procurement, tendering or contracting process, and employees, their relatives or associates must not receive any improper personal benefit from the arrangement.

33. Personal relationships at work

Employees must not allow a personal relationship with a colleague, parent, Governor or member of the wider school community to influence their conduct at work or have a detrimental impact on the operation of the school. Employees who are in a personal relationship should behave in an appropriate and professional manner during working time. Preferential treatment or advantage of any kind must not be given. A personal relationship may be defined as:

- A family relationship
- A romantic / sexual relationship
- A close personal friendship outside of work
- A business, commercial or financial relationship

Employees are expected to disclose to the Headteacher where a personal relationship exists or develops with a parent of a pupil or where there is a pre-existing family connection or friendship with a pupil and/or their family. There will be no requirement to give a detail account of the involvement. Where an individual is employed in a school in which their child/family member is a pupil, they should ensure that appropriate professional boundaries are maintained. Employees are expected to disclose to the Headteacher any close personal relationship with a colleague/Proprietary Board/Governor. There will not be a requirement to give a detail account of the involvement. Where a personal relationship exists or develops between members of employees where one party is in a supervisory relationship they must not be involved in the recruitment, appraisal, promotion, pay determination or any other management decision involving the other party. In the case of the Headteacher any disclosures should be made to the Chair of the Proprietary Board.

34. Political activity

Employees may engage in political activity outside of work, however they should not allow personal/political views to interfere with their duties. Any activity should be compatible with the employee's responsibility as a role model to pupils/students. Where an employee is involved in political activity outside of work, care must be taken to ensure that it is clear that any opinions expressed are personal and that the individual is not acting on behalf of/representing the school. There is no blanket prohibition on teachers and staff expressing their own views on political issues that are being taught to pupils. However,



there is a risk that doing so could sometimes amount to promoting a partisan political view or compromise the balanced presentation of opposing views. Teachers and staff are in a position of authority and will typically be respected and trusted by the pupils they teach, giving their personal opinions greater weight and credibility.

35. Intellectual property

Any intellectual property created by an employee during the course of their employment and for the purposes of their employment will be considered the property of the school, unless specific permission is granted to the employee to have ownership of such materials.

This policy forms part of the induction process and all employees sign the Code of Conduct as acceptance of the terms of their employment.