

the
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Ambitious Futures



**Staff Behaviour Policy
(Code of Conduct)**
Policy No. E04

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Introduction

- 1.0 This document provides a clear framework for the exercise of its powers and discretions in relation to all staff employed in the Academy Trust and paid from within the Trust's budget.
- 1.2 This code of conduct should be read in conjunction with the Induction of school staff policy and the Disciplinary procedure.
- 1.3 In accordance with the DFE 'Keeping children safe in education' guidance September 2016 this code has been adopted in order for all staff to be fully aware of the standards of personal and professional conduct in relation to various aspects of their work. The code gives a clear framework for staff to know their responsibilities and will be discussed during the course of their employment, for example in team meetings as queries arise - to ensure the code is mutually monitored, positively promoted in school and understood by everyone.
- 1.4 Every member of staff will be asked to read this code of conduct and date and sign that they have read and understood the document as part of their induction. This code will be reviewed annually and updated by the governors and headteacher as and when necessary, and staff will be informed of any amendments. If staff have any questions about the requirements of this code then advice should be sought from their line manager or the headteacher.
- 1.5 There is an expectation that all employees within the Trust will conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the highest standard in order to maintain public trust and confidence and be beyond reproach in the performance of their duties.
- 1.6 Each member of staff has a duty to ensure that the appropriate standards of conduct are upheld both by themselves and by colleagues.
- 1.7 Part of the responsibilities of Ofsted Inspection is to assure safe and secure provision for children, young people and learners across all remits through effective inspection and regulation. Safeguarding the welfare of children is part of Ofsted's core business for all staff, who are expected to be aware of their responsibilities in this regard. A code of conduct is essential to inform staff of the required expectations of them in a school.

Underlying principles

- 2.0 All staff must act within the law whilst undertaking their official duties. Staff must not undermine fundamental values, including democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- 2.1 Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities. Where staff are members of professional bodies, they must also comply with any standards of conduct which are set by that body. The conduct of all teachers must always be in line with the Teacher's Standards and where appropriate the Leadership Standards.
- 2.2 Staff must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the Trust, and maintain high standards in their own conduct, performance, attendance and punctuality. Staff should ensure that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law or the policies and procedures of the school. Staff should always show respect for the rights of others.
- 2.3 Staff are expected to provide the highest possible standard of service. Where staff are aware of any contraventions of this Code, illegality, misconduct or breach of procedure they should notify their Headteacher.
- 2.4 The Code does not seek to address every possible circumstance, and simply because a particular action may not be addressed within the Code, this does not condone that action by omission.



Safeguarding

- 3.0 Staff must safeguard children's well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions, the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and their school's child protection policy. Staff must report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding lead person in their Academy and ensure the Headteacher is also informed. All staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action and work with other services as needed.
- 3.1 All staff must be fully aware of both the Trust and school policies and procedures relating to safeguarding and given their position of trust, must ensure that they do not put themselves in any situation where their conduct or behaviour with any pupil could be misconstrued. Any allegations of inappropriate contact with pupils will be investigated according to the Trusts Disciplinary Procedure.
- 3.2 If a child reports any safeguarding concerns to any member of staff, this must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding person/Headteacher. Staff must not promise confidentiality to a child and always ensure that any actions they take are in the interests of a child
- 3.3 Where staff have any safeguarding concerns about another member of staff these concerns must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding person and the Headteacher. Serious case reviews from past cases in the media have highlighted the concerns about school staff not sharing their knowledge with the leadership of the school.
- 3.4 All staff must be aware that it is a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (as amended) for anyone to engage in a sexual relationship or grooming for such a relationship with a child aged under 18 with whom they are in a position of trust. It is vital that staff work within appropriate professional boundaries at all times with children and young people with whom they are in a position of trust. If staff, are unsure about what action to take or how they should respond to any situation they must immediately contact the designated safeguarding person/Headteacher. Any concerns about an inappropriate relationship between a member of staff and a student/pupil (irrespective of their age) will be fully investigated under the Trust Disciplinary Procedure as a potential issue of gross misconduct.

Equality issues

- 4.0 Staff must ensure that equality policies in relation to employment and their duties and responsibilities are adhered to. This Trust believes in equality and will not tolerate any harassment, intimidation, unfair discrimination or victimisation, by staff against pupils, colleagues, parents, governors and other visitors. Staff should not by their manner or speech be discriminatory with regards to a person's age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Health and safety

- 5.0 It is the responsibility of all Trust staff, Directors, Governors and visitors to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others and to assist in the creation of a safe work environment.
- 5.1 Staff have a responsibility to inform the Trust's HR Team of any medical condition/illness they have during the course of their employment which may impact on their fitness to undertake their duties or on the health and safety of themselves or other stakeholders.

Relationships and contact between Trust staff - the public, parents and pupils

- 6.0 School staff should always act in a courteous, efficient and impartial manner towards all individual pupils, groups of pupils staff and individuals. Staff must always treat pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, observing proper boundaries appropriate to their position.
- 6.1 Staff should also refer to the specific Trust policy 'E20 Staff Contact Policy' which refers to contact between Staff and Pupils outside the work context which must be read in conjunction with this code.
- 6.2 It is the policy of the Trust that there will be no personal contact other than in certain exempted circumstances between staff and current/former pupils of school age outside the normal school work environment. Any proposed work related contact, outside of the normal working environment, must be agreed in advance by the Headteacher, be recorded and monitored. Unexpected contact with pupils should be kept to a minimum. e.g. brief greeting. Any transport of pupils must be agreed in line with the school policy and always agreed with the Headteacher.
- 6.3 Correspondence received by a member of staff from former pupils, the public or parents should always be discussed with their line manager, The Trust's HR Team/ or Headteacher and filed with any response in the appropriate school records system.
- 6.4 Staff should be extremely cautious when using social networking sites outside of work and avoid publishing, or allowing to be published, any material, including comments or images that could damage their professional reputation and/or bring the Trust and its Academies into disrepute. Where staff do use social networking sites it is strongly advised that profiles should be set as 'private' and under no circumstances should staff allow access to pupils, their families and or carers.
- 6.5 Staff should not give their personal details such as home/mobile phone number; home or email address to pupils unless the need to do so is agreed with their Headteacher. Where this is the case, correspondence should be kept to a minimum and be professional at all times in accordance with the ethos of this code.
- 6.6 Where former pupils who are under the age of 18 and still in receipt of education in whatever educational setting make contact with a member of staff, staff must refer to the 'Staff Contact Policy' and discuss their response to any such significant contact with their current line manager/Headteacher.

Confidentiality

- 7.0 Staff, Directors and Governors should also be mindful that requirements in relation to maintaining the confidentiality of pupils, their families, colleagues and any matters relating to the Trust and its Academies apply to all forms of communication, including social networking sites.

Use of personal mobile phones, laptops and tablets

- 8.0 All staff are normally required to place any personal equipment capable of photographing children in a locked drawer/locker and such items should not be taken into the classroom. Such personal equipment is not to be used at any time, unless agreed by the headteacher, during contact with pupils.
- 8.1 The Trust will set out in writing their own expectations of the use of this equipment by staff and should review this in line with the agreed procedures.
- 8.2 If there is a requirement in the teacher's or supports staff's role to take photographs of children for school purposes this must be carried out using school equipment that will be provided and with the agreement of the Headteacher and in line with the agreed

procedures.

Use of school premises or facilities for work not connected with the Trust

- 9.0 Staff must not use the Trust's premises or facilities for activities which are not connected with their employment at the Trust, without agreement from the CEO/Headteacher or Directors/Governing body. This includes the personal use of the school email, telephones, computers, photocopiers, or other equipment.
- 9.1 Internal email systems and ICT equipment should always be used in accordance with the appropriate Trust policies.

Disclosure of information

- 10.0 Staff must not disclose information given to them in confidence without consent except for that relating to safeguarding of a child which must be passed on. Advice should always be sought from their line manager or Headteacher as appropriate on the appropriate use of Trust/Academy data and disclosure of Trust/Academy information.
- 10.1 Any actions taken by the school must always be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Staff should not use confidential information obtained in the course of their employment with the Trust for personal use, nor should they pass it on to others who might use it for unauthorised purposes.

School staff facing criminal charges

- 11.0 Any member of staff, volunteer, director or governor who during the course of their employment or duties with the Trust faces criminal charges or who receives a new caution or conviction must inform The Trust's HR Team, or in the case of the CEO/Headteacher the chair of Directors/Governors. This includes but is not limited to driving cautions and convictions where no custodial sentence has been given.

Conflict of interest

- 12.0 Staff should declare any personal interest that could bring about conflict with the Trust's interests. Staff must also declare to their CEO/Headteacher or chair of Directors/Governors any financial interests or non-financial interests which could or could be perceived to conflict with their role within the Trust.
- 12.1 Staff are required not to take outside employment which conflicts with the Trust's interests, any staff intending to work for outside organisations or set up their own business, should seek permission from the CEO or chair of Directors/Governors, as appropriate.

Acceptance of gifts

- 13.0 It is reasonable for a member of staff to accept modest gifts from pupils, especially at the end of a school year or at Christmas. The giving of gifts to pupils should be in line with the agreed Trust protocol.

There will be other instances that occur in school life that will need referral to the CEO Academy Trust/Governing body.

Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Order 2012 Impact Assessment

Name of Policy:	Staff Behaviour Policy
Date Analysis Undertaken:	28.02.2017

General Duty	Current Provision	Task to be completed / Undertaken	Support needed / Date for action / Lead
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment and other prohibited conduct.	Policy in place which was ratified by appropriate Trade Unions.	Ensure changes agreed by governors for signoff.	Keep abreast of national guidelines and statutory requirements for KCSIE and Ofsted. On-going MD
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Policy neutral impact therefore all employees receive support when necessary	Continue to seek professional advice when necessary and review policy annually.	Continue to assess impact of policy and continue to follow guidelines. On-going MD
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	N/A: Policy is Neutral impact against protected characteristics.	Continue to seek professional advice when necessary and review policy annually.	Continue to assess impact of policy and continue to follow guidelines. On-going MD

Ambition	♦	Integrity	♦	Inclusivity	♦	Endeavour	♦	Resilience
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“To open minds, creating opportunities for all to believe in themselves, achieve their potential and develop the skills needed to succeed and enjoy life”

Template for self-assessment and action planning: Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Order 2012

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Engagement undertaken	Evidence and action taken/Outcome
Race			X		
Religion or Belief			X		
Gender / Gender Reassignment			X		
Sexual Orientation			X		
Disability			X		
Age			X		
Other (please specify)			X		
Summary: Advice sought from professional agencies and qualified staff within Trust.					

Undertaken by: (PRINT NAME)	Maxine Day				
Signature	<i>Maxine Day</i> (electronic)				
Date:	28.02.2017				
QA: (PRINT NAME)	Claire Cuthbert	QA Signature:	Claire Cuthbert		

Ambition ♦ Integrity ♦ Inclusivity ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience

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