

Boxgrove and Kidbrooke Park Primary schools & Kidbrooke Park learning Centre

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Adults in School

Aims, scope and principles

This policy aims to set and maintain standards of conduct that we expect all staff to follow. By creating this policy, we aim to ensure our school is an environment where everyone is safe, happy and treated with respect.

Many of the principles in this code of conduct are based on the [Teachers' Standards](#). School staff have an influential position in the school, and will act as role models for pupils by consistently demonstrating high standards of behaviour. We expect that all teachers will act in accordance with the personal and professional behaviours set out in the Teachers' Standards. We expect all support staff, governors and volunteers to also act with personal and professional integrity, respecting the safety and wellbeing of others.

Our school is a values based school and all staff and adults will be expected to role model: Integrity, Emotional intelligence, Determination, Collaboration and innovation.

Failure to follow the code of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken, as set out in our staff disciplinary procedures. Please note that this code of conduct is not exhaustive. If situations arise that are not covered by this code, staff will use their professional judgement and act in the best interests of the school and its pupils.

Underpinning principles

- Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- Staff should work and be seen to work in an open and transparent way
- Staff should discuss and/or take advice promptly from their line manager or another senior member of staff over any incident which may give rise to concern
- Staff should apply the same professional standards regardless of gender, sexuality or ethnicity
- All staff should know the name of their designated person for child protection, be familiar with local child protection arrangements and understand their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children and young people
- Staff should be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them
- Staff should take responsibility for reporting any behaviour by colleagues that raises concerns (including Whistleblowing)
- Staff should be familiar with and adhere to all policies
- Staff should take responsibility for reporting any incidents or situations that cause concern to a member of SLT

Legislation and guidance

We are required to set out a staff code of conduct under regulation 7 of [The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#). In line with the statutory safeguarding guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)', we should have a staff code of conduct, which should cover acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications, including the use of social media.

General obligations

Staff set an example to pupils. They will:

- Maintain high standards in their attendance and punctuality
- Never use inappropriate or offensive language in school
- Treat pupils and others with dignity and respect
- Show tolerance and respect for the rights of others
- Not undermine fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- Express personal beliefs in a way that will not overly influence pupils, and will not exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law
- Understand the statutory frameworks they must act within
- Adhere to the Teachers' Standards

Safeguarding

Staff have a duty to safeguard pupils from harm, and to report any concerns they have. This includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse, or neglect. Staff will familiarise themselves with our safeguarding policy and procedures and the Prevent initiative, and ensure they are aware of the processes to follow if they have concerns about a child. Our safeguarding policy and procedures are available on the school website and from the school office. New staff will also be given copies on arrival.

Staff/pupil relationships

Staff will observe proper boundaries with pupils that are appropriate to their professional position. They will act in a fair and transparent way that would not lead anyone to reasonably assume they are not doing so. There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with pupils but it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role. When physical contact is made with pupils this should be in response to their needs at the time, of limited duration and appropriate given their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity and background. It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact so staff should use their professional judgement at all times.

There may be occasions when a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance. This may include age-appropriate physical contact. Staff should remain self-aware at all times in order that their contact is not threatening, intrusive or subject to misinterpretation.

Staff may legitimately physically intervene to prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others, causing damage to property, engaging in behaviour prejudicial to good order and to maintain good order and discipline.

Children with SEN may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The arrangements should be understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the child's needs, consistently applied and open to scrutiny. All children have a right to safety, privacy and dignity when contact of an intimate nature is required (for example assisting with toileting or removing wet/soiled clothing.) Adults should:

- Be aware that even well intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by the child, an observer or by anyone to whom this action is described
- Never touch a child in a way that may be considered indecent
- Always be prepared to explain actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny
- Not INITIATE physical contact eg hugs and where contact is necessary seek the child's permission
- Not prolong contact initiated by children
- Never indulge in horseplay, tickling, massage or fun fights
- Never have physical contact with a child if on own with him/her
- Consider the way in which they offer comfort to a distressed pupil
- Demonstrate and instruct in PE and Music with the minimum amount of contact
- Encourage pupils to act as independently as possible and to undertake as much of their own personal care as is practicable
- Encourage pupils who initiate physical contact to enjoy a conversation with you instead, turning your body slightly to the side to move out of the embrace gently
- Follow the school policy on physical restraint - including the recording of any incidents
- Never lift / pick up a child

If staff members and pupils must spend time on a one-to-one basis, staff will ensure that:

- This takes place in a public place that others can access
- Others can see in to the room
- A colleague or line manager knows this is taking place
- They avoid meetings with pupils in remote, secluded areas of school
- Always report any situation where a child becomes distressed or angry to a senior colleague
- Respect pupils entitlement to privacy when changing for PE whilst being mindful of the appropriate need of supervision
- When administering first aid wherever possible staff should ensure that another adult is present or ensure an open door. Parents should always be informed when first aid has been administered.

Staff should avoid contact with pupils outside of school hours if possible.

Personal contact details should not be exchanged between staff and pupils. This includes social media profiles.

While we are aware many pupils and their parents may wish to give gifts to staff, for example, at the end of the school year, gifts from staff to individual pupils are not acceptable.

If a staff member is concerned at any point that an interaction between themselves and a pupil may be misinterpreted, this should be reported to their line manager or the headteacher.

Communication and social media

School staff's social media profiles should not be available to pupils. If they have a personal profile on social media sites, they should not use their full name, as pupils may be able to find them. Staff should consider using a first and middle name instead, and set public profiles to private.

Staff should not attempt to contact pupils or their parents via social media, or any other means outside school, in order to develop any sort of relationship. They will not make any efforts to find pupils' or parents' social media profiles or accept them as 'friends'. Staff will ensure that they do not post any images online that identify children who are pupils at the school without their consent.

Staff should be aware of the school's e-safety policy / Acceptable use policy

Social Contact with parents

As educators, staff should avoid personal relationships with parents. However for staff who live in the area or who are parents of pupils it is unavoidable that they will sometimes develop friendships with parents. However they will need to manage these relationships professionally and sensibly.

This means that adults should:

- Not actively seek friendships with parents
- Be aware of the importance of confidentiality and do not disclose any information
- Not discuss information about other children or member of staff
- Only discuss their child's educational achievements / needs within professional school based conversations such as parent –teacher meetings.
- Inform senior management of any friendships with parents
- Always encourage parents to go through the appropriate professional channels for any concerns or complaints
- Ensure private friendships are not overtly displayed within school working hours
- Ensure that private relationships with parents do not affect the duty of care for all science users

Acceptable use of technology

Staff will not use technology in school to view material that is illegal, inappropriate or likely to be deemed offensive. This includes, but is not limited to, sending obscene emails, gambling and viewing pornography or other inappropriate content.

Staff will not use personal mobile phones and laptops, or school equipment for personal use, in school hours or in front of pupils. They will also not use personal mobile phones or cameras to take pictures of pupils. We have the right to monitor emails and internet use on the school IT system.

Confidentiality

In the course of their role, members of staff are often privy to sensitive and confidential information about the school, staff, pupils and their parents.

This information will never be:

- Disclosed to anyone without the relevant authority
- Used to humiliate, embarrass or blackmail others
- Used for a purpose other than what it was collected and intended for

This does not overrule staff's duty to report child protection concerns to the appropriate channel where staff believe a child is at risk of harm.

Honesty and integrity

Staff should maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their role. This includes when dealing with pupils, handling money, claiming expenses and using school property and facilities. Staff will not accept bribes. Gifts that are worth more than £25 must be declared and recorded on the gifts and hospitality register. Staff will ensure that all information given to the school about their qualifications and professional experience is correct.

Dress code

Staff will dress in a professional, appropriate manner. Attire should:

- Promote a positive and professional image
- Should be appropriate to their role and duties, including shoes
- not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative
- not show excessive cleavage including tops with very narrow straps
- not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding eg short skirts must be worn with leggings or opaque tights
- be absent of any political or otherwise contentious slogans eg 'fcuk'
- not be considered discriminatory
- not be ripped or tatty
- Role model 'Sun Safety' awareness

Conduct outside of work

Staff will not act in a way that would bring the school, or the teaching profession into disrepute. This covers relevant criminal offences, such as violence or sexual misconduct, as well as negative comments about the school on social media. All staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. An individual's behaviour either in or out of the workplace should not compromise her/his position within the school.

This means that adults 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
- Avoid drinking in the local area and moderate consumption of alcohol on week nights
- Take responsibility for any communication (eg quiet conversations in cafes or pubs, photos, details of private life) in or out of school including the internet
- Not swear or indulge in silly behaviour anywhere they might be observed by pupils or parents

Alcohol

Staff should adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain the confidence and respect of their peers, pupils and the public in general.

This means that adults should:

- Not drink during teaching hours
- Not come to school smelling of alcohol
- Watch consumption of alcohol on school nights being aware that it can be detected the day after

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, but can be revised as needed.

Links with other policies

This policy links with our policies on:

- Staff disciplinary procedures, which will be used if staff breach this code of conduct. It also sets out examples of what we will deem as misconduct and gross misconduct
- Staff grievance procedures
- Safeguarding
- Gifts and hospitality
- E-safety

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____ Reviewed: