



Leamington Community Primary School

Together we make a Difference



Staff Code of Conduct

Completed by: Mrs. I Kelleher

Date Issued: 1st October 2021

Approved by Governors: 12th October 2021

Review Date: 31st July 2022

Courage



Determination



Friendship



Honesty



Respect

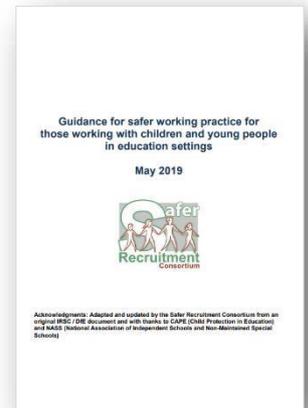


Safer working practices code of conduct for adults

The DFE acknowledges the work of the Safer Recruitment Consortium in revising the detailed 'Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings.'

All staff and volunteers should receive this guidance as part of their induction. It should be revisited as part of on-going training to support everyone's understanding of key expectations.

It's important that staff and volunteers are provided with opportunities to consider the implications of the guidance for their setting and their own role and seek clarification.



Safer working practices code of conduct:

Introduction:

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2021) sets out the requirement for all schools to have a staff code of conduct, sometimes referred to as a staff behaviour policy. This code of conduct should be followed by all staff (including visiting staff), volunteers and governors.

Our school is committed to safeguarding children and promoting children's welfare and expects all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment and maintain a vigilant and safe environment. It is our willingness to work in a safe manner and challenge inappropriate behaviour that underpins this commitment.

Everyone is expected to adhere to this 'Code of Conduct' and the '[Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings](#)', Safer Recruitment Consortium 2019 and Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings; Addendum 2020

Everyone must also read and understand part one and Annexe B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2021). This code of conduct aims to support adults so they can avoid working in a manner which might lead to an allegation against them by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise behaviour and by supporting staff and volunteers to understand what safe, professional conduct is. Equally it aims to reduce the opportunity for any adult intent on grooming or harming a young person. The policy aims to reduce the risk of incidents or misunderstandings occurring by developing and setting out clear guidelines and boundaries. It encourages you to work in an open and transparent way that should avoid someone questioning your motives, intentions or suitability to work with young people.

Our school promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Creating this culture in which all concerns are shared responsibly, in a timely way with the right person, and are recorded and dealt with appropriately is critical to effective safeguarding practice. This culture enables the school to identify concerning,

□

problematic or inappropriate behaviour at the earliest possible stage, minimises the risk of abuse and ensures that all adults working in or on behalf of the school are clear about professional boundaries and act within these, in accordance with our ethos and values. This culture also empowers individuals to share concerns with key staff about their own behaviour at the earliest possible opportunity

It is a key principle of this code of conduct that **everyone** understands their responsibility to share **without delay** any concerns they may have about a child's welfare or an adult's behaviour towards a young person. This includes any behaviours which may not meet the harm threshold and may be deemed to be a 'low level concern' as set out in our child protection policy. In addition, **everyone** has a responsibility to escalate their concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer if they feel that safeguarding concerns they have raised about a child or adult working at the school are not being addressed by the school. Further information and guidance regarding how school will respond to concerns about an adult's conduct towards children where the harm threshold is met are set out in our managing allegations policy.

Code of Conduct:

Our school will create a culture of openness, transparency, trust and support where all members of the school community feel empowered to share relevant information about themselves or someone else.

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.

- If you have any concerns that a child is being harmed, abused or neglected you **must share your concerns immediately** both verbally and in writing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or another member of the school's Leadership Team (see details below). Always listen carefully to the child and report what they tell you in the child's own words. Never promise to keep a secret.
- If you receive an allegation against an adult working in the school or observe behaviour that concerns you, you must discuss your concerns without delay with the Head teacher. In the absence of the Head teacher, concerns should be shared with another senior member of staff such as the Deputy Head teacher or the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or the Chair of Governors. Concerns regarding the Head teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors or Local Authority Designated Officer. The school's Whistleblowing Policy and the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline are available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or email: help@nspcc.org.uk, Safeguarding-Mate can also guide staff should they have a concern about an adult's behaviour.
- If you are worried that the behaviour of an adult working in the school (including all third party staff, supply staff and volunteers) is giving cause for concern, no matter how small the concern is and even if it does not meet the harm threshold, you must share your concerns with the designated safeguarding lead without delay. This is in line the low-level concern procedures set out within our child protection policy. Concerns regarding the designated safeguarding lead should be directed to the Head teacher.
- Anyone (in emergencies or if they are required to) can make a referral about their concerns for a child directly to Children's Services.

You should:

- Follow the school's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures and in line with this share safeguarding information appropriately but also act accordingly with sensitive and confidential information.
- Be alert to the indicators of harm and abuse towards a child, including peer to peer abuse.
- Dress appropriately according to your role, ensuring that clothing is compliant with professional standards and is not likely to be viewed as offensive or revealing and that it is absent of any political or other contentious slogans or images.
- Act as an appropriate role model, treating all members of the school community with respect and tolerance.
- Ensure that they appropriately challenge any form of derogatory and sexualised language or behaviour to ensure that everyone is respectful at all times.
- Ensure gifts given or received are recorded and discussed with your Line Manager.
- Respect others' confidentiality unless sharing information is appropriate to ensuring their welfare.
- Adhere to the school's policies, particularly those related to safeguarding - including child protection, behaviour, attendance, physical intervention, intimate care, anti-bullying, equal opportunities, data protection, health and safety and online safety (acceptable user policy).
- Ensure that you understand your responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations 2017 and Data Protection Act 2018 and be clear that where personal information is recorded electronically, systems and devices are kept secure.
- Report any behaviour or situations which you may feel give rise to a complaint or misunderstanding in respect of your own actions both in and out of school. Also share situations the Designated Safeguarding Lead if you feel your actions might have sat outside this code of conduct, or may appear to others that they have done so.
- Share with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Head Teacher in their absence) any behaviour of another adult in the school where it gives you cause for concern or breaches this code of conduct or the school's safeguarding policies in line with the low-level concern procedures set out in our child protection policy. Examples of such behaviours include, but are not limited to, being over friendly with children, having favourites, using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language, taking photographs of children on their mobile phone or engaging with a child on a one to one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door. Your intervention may allow for their practice to be supported and developed and/or prevent a child from being harmed.
- Understand that it may be appropriate to discuss with the Head teacher matters outside of work, including online, which may have implications for the safeguarding of children in the workplace. This includes information about yourself. You must ensure that you are aware of the circumstances where this would be applicable.
- Be aware that behaviour by yourself, those with whom you have a relationship or association, or others in your personal life (in or out of school or online), may impact on your work with children.
- Staff are encouraged to declare any relationships which exist outside of the workplace with any children, families or staff. This is in line with our school culture and enables any implications for practice to be considered and staff to be provided with appropriate advice to support safer working practices.
- Understand the circumstances where it may be necessary to 'self-report' incidents where they could have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, or may appear compromising to others, or if they have behaved in a manner which, on reflection, they consider to fall below the standards set out within the code of conduct for staff.
- Be aware that behaviour by themselves, those with whom they have a relationship or association or others in their personal lives (in or out of school, or online), may impact on their work with children.
- Inform the Head teacher of any cautions, convictions or relevant order accrued during your employment, and/or if you are charged with a criminal offence.

□

Understand that if you commit a relevant offence that would appear on your DBS certificate or you become disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006 (those staff covered by the scope of the guidance): www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006 then you must inform your Head teacher (The Childcare Act 2006 does not cover all settings or even all staff within a setting).

Never:

- Act in a way both at work and/or in your personal life (including online) that brings yourself, school or the teaching profession into disrepute.
- Make, encourage or ignore others, making personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate any member of the school community including ignoring any form of peer to peer abuse.
- Use your position to intimidate, bully, humiliate, coerce or undermine any member of the school community. This includes shouting in anger and aggressively to punish them rather than raising your voice to be heard or avoid danger.
- Undermine fundamental British Values including democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths, beliefs or from different cultures.
- Develop 'personal' or sexual relationships with children and young people, including making sexual remarks or having inappropriate sexual banter. In addition, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it clear that all members of staff are in a position of trust and would therefore be committing a criminal offence to have a sexual relationship with a young person in full time education/below the age of 18, even if that pupil is over the age of consent.
- Engage in inappropriate conversations with students or share inappropriate personal information about yourself or others.
- Discriminate favourably or unfavourably towards a child.
- Give personal contact details to pupils or communicate outside of school using social networking sites, email, text, etc. or meet a young person out of school unless part of a planned school activity with the knowledge of your Line Manager.
- Have conversations on social networking sites that make reference to children, parents or other colleagues at the school or be derogatory about the school. Never make any statements or post images on social networking sites that might cause someone to question your suitability to act as a role model to young people or bring your own or the school's reputation into disrepute. You should never communicate with parents through social networking sites and you are strongly advised to declare any existing friendships/relationships to your Line Manager.
- Use personal equipment to photograph children (always use the school's equipment) and ensure any photographs are only stored on the designated secure place on the school's network and not on portable equipment.
- Should not post on the school's website or social media accounts any photographs of children without their consent (some children may be put at risk by their whereabouts being made public).
- Use your personal mobile phone (or other personal IT equipment) in areas used by children unless in emergencies or under an agreed protocol set out by the Head teacher. Use of personal mobile phones are restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where children are not present (such as the staff room) In our Early Years setting all staff mobile phones are to be locked in the EYFS office during contact time with the children
- Undertake 'one to one' activities out of the sight of others unless it is a planned activity with the knowledge of your Line Manager and in keeping with your own responsibilities. You should not cover windows or door panels and always act in an open and transparent way. Staff responsible for the Intimate Care of the children

In the Early Years setting will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times and adhere to the guidelines and procedures in the Intimate Care Policy.

- Transport children unsafely, for example by driving whilst using your mobile phone, consuming alcohol, failing to ensure that seat belts are worn or driving without appropriate insurance. Any trips should be planned and with the knowledge of your line Manager. Unforeseen events should be reported to your Line Manager. It is good practice to have another adult to act as an escort during the journey.
- Have physical contact with young people that might be misconstrued or considered indecent or harmful. Ensure you are always able to give an account of the reasons for physical contact or physical intervention. Where physical contact is required it is good practice for it to be within the sight of others. Any physical contact with a child that was needed to control or restrain a child should always be the minimum required.

At Leamington School positive handling will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk. All challenging behaviour will be addressed using the guidelines set out in the behaviour policy. Should an incident require further intervention, then staff will use **reasonable** physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property. The form of physical intervention may involve staff doing the following:

- physically placing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- escorting a pupil
- shepherding a pupil away

Where positive handling has been used, a record of the incident always needs to be kept and the Head teacher informed. All recording needs to be completed on the day of incident and needs to include the following:

- name of pupil
- date, time and place of incident
- a brief description of the incident and actions taken
- attempts made to calm the situation
- names of people who witnessed the situation
- any damage/harm to persons or property
- name of person informing parents
- after investigation a summary of action taken

Complaints

Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints about Staff Procedure Policy.

All school employees should have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under this code of conduct. It aims to help avoid poor working practices that may lead to a person's behaviour being investigated and the consideration of disciplinary procedures.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Head Teacher is: Mr. Paul Vine

The Chair of Governors is: Mr. Pat Monaghan

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs. Iris Kelleher

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs. Rachel Mellor

The nominated Safeguarding / Child Protection Governor is: Mrs. Alma Shaw

The nominated governor for dealing with allegations against the Head Teacher is: Mr. Pat Monaghan