

# Staff code of conduct

## Leedon Lower School



**Approved by:** Governing Body

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## 1. 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.

Treat everyone with respect and uphold the values of the school.

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.

## 2. 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.

### 3. 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

### 4. 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 in the staff room, on the school's website and from the school office. New staff will also be given copies on arrival.

### 5. 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.

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

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.

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

### 6. Professional relationships

Relationships between staff should be characterised by fairness, openness, transparency and respect. This means valuing all contributions, acknowledging differences, and working together to build a climate of continuous improvement.

All staff are expected to treat other colleagues, pupils and external contacts, such as parents, with dignity and respect. Unacceptable behaviour such as bullying, harassment, intimidation or discrimination against protected characteristics (which include race, gender, religion or culture, sexual orientation, disability or any special educational needs, or other physical attributes) will not be tolerated. This includes physical and verbal abuse, and use of inappropriate language or unprofessional behaviour (including via email, social media or private messaging apps) with colleagues, pupils and parents.

Staff have the right to use the school's grievance procedure to address concerns or complaints about another employee's behaviour.

## **7. 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 try to contact pupils or their parents via social media or any other means outside school to develop a relationship. They will not make any efforts to find pupils' or parents' social media profiles.

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 and social networking policies.

## **8. 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 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.

## **9. Confidentiality**

In their role, staff members 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 the staff's duty to report child protection concerns to the appropriate channel where staff believe a child is at risk of harm.

## **10. Honesty and integrity**

Staff should maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their role. This includes dealing with pupils, handling money, claiming expenses and using school property and facilities.

Staff will not accept bribes. Gifts that are worth more than **£20** 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.

## **11. Dress code**

Staff will dress in a professional, appropriate manner.

Outfits will not be overly revealing.

Clothes will not display any offensive or political slogans.

## **12. 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, and negative comments about the school on social media.

## **13. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every **2 years** but can be revised as needed. Ratified by the full governing body in September 2018.

## **14. 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, which staff should use if they feel this code of conduct has been broken by another employee or they have a concern or grievance in relation to their own employment, working conditions, or the application of terms and conditions (excluding pay, which is dealt with under the school's Pay policy).
- Safeguarding
- E-safety
- Social Networking
- Respect