



# EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC

## Staff Code of Conduct

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Post Holder Responsible for Review:	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



**Commitment to Equality:**

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

To ensure the positive development of young people, all staff work within a framework of equal opportunities and other relevant legislation, statutory guidance and school policies. Within this framework, staff challenge stereotypes and oppose prejudice to safeguard equality of opportunity, respecting individuals regardless of sex, marital status, religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and age.

**Motto**

Our Journey with Christ.

**Mission**

As a family of schools, united in Christ and working together as one, we exist to deliver excellent Catholic education and faith formation to every young person, in every classroom, every day.

**Vision**

Transforming Lives: inspiring ambition and empowering young people to change the world.

**This Staff Code of Conduct has been approved and adopted by Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 and will be reviewed in August 2025.**

Signed by Director of Emmaus Catholic MAC: *J Griffin*

Signed by CEO for Central Team: *S Horan*

**This policy relates to all Emmaus schools.**



## 1.0 Introduction

As an employer, Emmaus Catholic MAC is required to set out a Code of Conduct for all staff.

As a Catholic Multi Academy Company, all adults in our company are expected to actively follow and live out our Mission Statement which reflects how the Emmaus family is to conduct itself at all times. All communication and interaction between members of the Emmaus family – directors, local governing body members, staff, pupils, parents, carers and visitors must reflect our mission statement.

As part of the Catholic Education Service terms and conditions, staff are expected to be conscientious and loyal to the aims and objectives of the MAC.

In addition, staff are required to develop and maintain the Catholic character of the MAC. Staff are to have regard to the Catholic character of the MAC and not do anything in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interests of the same at any time, at work or at home.

This Policy is produced with reference to the documents Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept. 2024) and 'Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings' (updated February 2022) published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium.

This Policy is applicable and relevant to all staff, both teaching and support, fixed term, part and full-time employed by Emmaus Catholic MAC as well as those who work in any casual, or voluntary, unpaid capacity.

All teachers employed by Emmaus Catholic MAC, irrespective of whether they have a permanent or temporary contract or are employed on a full or part time basis, have a statutory obligation to adhere to the National Teachers' Standards (2013 revision, Dec 2021 update) and in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Standards-Personal & Professional Conduct.

Part 2 of the Standards states that teachers are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. In Emmaus Catholic MAC these standards will apply to all staff, both teachers and support. This means that staff uphold public trust and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:

- Treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to their position.
- Having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- Showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others.
- Not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.

Staff must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the MAC/school and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.

Staff must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

## 2.0 Employee Behaviour

The following general standards are required by all staff:

- staff should behave in a respectful, professional and polite manner and ensure their behaviour does not breach the Equality Act 2010.
- staff should comply with all reasonable management instructions.
- staff should cooperate fully with colleagues and management.
- staff should uphold and further the Emmaus Catholic MAC positive public image at all times.
- satisfactory standards of performance should be maintained at all times.
- Emmaus Catholic MAC policies and procedures and individual school policies and procedures should be adhered to at all times.

All staff will be expected to act in accordance with this Code of Conduct and should be aware that any breach or failure to follow the policy could result in disciplinary action being taken against them, including dismissal and referral to statutory authorities, (including the LADO, the Police & the DBS), and if a teacher, referral to the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA).

The Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (Regulations 2018) states that schools should make clear their expectation that staff should disclose any relationship or association (in the real world or online) that may impact on the school's ability to safeguard pupils, and therefore, we encourage staff to be open about their relationships which may impact safeguarding at our schools so appropriate safeguards can be put in place to minimise any potential risk posed to pupils.

This applies to all staff, not just those in early or later years' childcare. However, also in accordance with these regulations Emmaus Catholic MAC will not ask intrusive questions of staff regarding those with whom they live or have relationships/associations.

All staff will be given a copy of the Staff Code of Conduct at the start of the academic year. All new staff will be taken through the policy as part of the staff induction programme.

### 2.1 Principles

Staff are responsible for their own actions and accountable for how they use their authority and position of trust.

Staff must treat all members of the MAC community (pupils, colleagues & parents) with consideration & respect.

Staff must demonstrate a clear understanding of and commitment to non-discriminatory practice.

All staff have a duty of care to keep pupils safe, recognising that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Staff should ensure that they are seen to work in a transparent way.

Staff must report matters of concern at the earliest opportunity to the appropriate member of staff.

### 2.2 Setting an Example

All staff who work in Emmaus Catholic MAC must set positive examples of behaviour and conduct which can be copied by the pupils. All staff must demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage the pupils to do the same. As a result, staff must:

- Ensure that their relationships with fellow staff and pupils are always conducted in a courteous and professional manner.
- Not use abusive or inappropriate language (homophobic, racist or gender stereotyping).
- Never make personal comments which will humiliate or scapegoat pupils or other members of staff.
- Ensure that they do not censure or criticise the work of other staff in the hearing of pupils or parents. The criticism of the work of staff by other staff should always be undertaken professionally, constructively and in the appropriate setting.
- Observe the highest standards of dress, behaviour, attendance and punctuality. Staff should not do anything that prevents them from carrying out their role properly and efficiently whether on Emmaus premises or on Emmaus related business taking place away from a school site or the central offices.

### **3.0 Staff Dress**

During working/school hours staff must ensure they are dressed decently, safely and appropriately for the tasks they undertake. It is important that all staff promote a positive professional image with regard to appearance and standards of dress at all times. Where uniforms are provided, these must be worn at all times whilst at work and laundered on a regular basis.

On non-uniform or training days, casual dress may be authorised. Whilst we wish you to be comfortable, staff must continue to wear appropriate attire that is suitable for the working environment.

Please refer to the Emmaus Catholic MAC Professional Appearance Policy for further details.

### **4.0 Safeguarding Pupils**

All staff have a duty of care towards all pupils at all times when on a school site irrespective of whether or not they are directly supervising the pupils.

Staff who have reason to believe that a student may be the victim of emotional, physical or sexual abuse or neglect must report their concerns to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the earliest opportunity following the procedures as outlined in the school's Safeguarding Policy (including Child Protection).

Staff must be aware of their responsibilities as stated in the MAC/school's Safeguarding Policy (including Child Protection), Online Safety Policy, Health and Safety (including First Aid) Policy and Whistleblowing Policy (Appendix One).

When taking pupils off site, staff must follow the school's Educational Visits Policy in all relevant respects. The policy and supporting documents and guidance will be made available by the (Executive) Principal or Educational Visits' Coordinator and must be referred to prior to arranging an off-site visit.

#### **4.1 Confidentiality**

Where staff have access to confidential information about pupils, parents, carers or other members of staff they must not disclose or reveal such information except to those colleagues who have a professional role in relation to the student/member of staff.

Staff have an obligation to share with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead any information which gives rise to concern about the safety or welfare of a pupil. Staff must never promise a pupil that they will not act on information that they are told by the pupil. The Data Protection Act 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows

practitioners to share information without consent, if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent or if to gain consent would place a child at risk

Staff must be aware that the information held on the company/school's information system about pupils and other staff is strictly confidential and every effort must be made to ensure that it is not inappropriately disclosed and/or shared.

To ensure confidentiality, after using the MAC computer network, staff must always either lock or log out from the computer being used.

The storing and processing of personal information is governed by the General Data Protection Regulations 2017 (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. Staff must follow the MAC's Data Protection Policy which clearly defines their responsibilities under this legislation so that, when considering sharing confidential information, those principles apply.

Staff must not use the MAC/school ICT network if they have not submitted a signed copy of the MAC Acceptable User Agreement for IT.

#### **4.2 One To One situations**

Staff are more vulnerable to accusations when alone with a pupil and/or parents and should avoid such situations where possible.

Where undertaking one to one situations with pupils and/or parents, staff must:

- Leave the door to the room being used open or undertake the meeting where they can be seen (making use of the school's CCTV system if applicable).
- Ensure that a colleague is aware that the meeting is taking place.
- End the meeting if the pupil or parents become agitated, threatening etc.
- Never arrange to meet a pupil and/or parents away from the school site unless permission has been given by the (Executive) Principal.
- Avoid travelling in a car with one pupil unless permission has been received from the (Executive) Principal to do so. In the unavoidable event where a member of staff has permission from the (Executive) Principal to travel in a car with a single student, the member of staff should be accompanied by another member of staff.

Staff must never have one to one meetings on their own with known difficult students and/or parents or where the meeting is being held to address challenging or difficult matters.

#### **4.3 Safeguarding Concern or an Allegation against a staff member**

If staff have safeguarding concerns or an allegation is made about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors) posing a risk of harm to children, then;

- This should be referred to the CEO for the Central Team and (Executive) Principal in a school.
- Where there are concerns about the CEO, this should be referred to the Chair of the Board. Where there are concerns about an (Executive) Principal, this should be referred to the CEO.
- In the event of concerns/allegations about the CEO or (Executive) Principal, where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the Chair of the Board or CEO, this should be reported directly to the LADO.

If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers or contractors) that does not meet the harm threshold, then this should be shared in

accordance with the low-level concerns procedure as outlined in section 4.4 of this Staff Code of Conduct.

#### **4.4 Low-level Concerns**

This section should be read in conjunction with the Emmaus Catholic MAC Allegations Against Staff (including low-level concerns) Policy.

As part of our MAC-wide approach to safeguarding, we promote a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the MAC values and expected behaviour set out in the Staff Code of Conduct are lived, monitored and reinforced constantly by staff and in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the MAC/School (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

All concerns about adults including allegations that do not meet the harms threshold (see KCSIE 2024 Part Four - Section two, pages 106 - 110) are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately. We encourage an open and transparent culture; to enable us to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the MAC/schools are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the MAC/schools.

#### **What is a low-level concern?**

As set out in KCSIE 2024 (para. 433) The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold for harm. 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 Staff Code of Conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and
- does not meet the harm threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children.
- having favourites.
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone; contrary to MAC policy.
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door.
- humiliating children.

Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

Low-level concerns may arise in several ways and from a number of sources. For example: suspicion, complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside of the organisation; a safeguarding concern or allegation from another member of staff or as a result of vetting checks undertaken.

It is crucial that all low-level concerns are shared responsibly and with the right person, and recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring they are dealt with effectively should also protect those



working in or on behalf of schools and colleges from becoming the subject of potential false low-level concerns or misunderstandings.

#### **4.5 Sharing Low-level Concerns:**

Low-level concerns about a member of staff should be reported to the CEO for the Central Team or (Executive) Principal for a member of staff in a school. The CEO/(Executive) Principal should be the ultimate decision maker in respect of all low-level concerns, although depending on the nature of some low-level concerns, the CEO/(Executive) Principal may wish to consult with the DSL and take a more collaborative decision making approach.

We aim to create an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

Where a low-level concern relates to a person employed by a supply agency or a contractor working within the MAC/school, that concern should be shared with the CEO for the Central Team and the (Executive) Principal in a school. The concern should be recorded and their employer notified about the concern, so that any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

In the event of any doubt as to whether the information which has been shared about a member of staff as a low-level concern in fact meets the harm threshold, then the CEO for the Central Team and (Executive) Principal for schools should consult with their LADO.

All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing, including details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose and the action taken. The name of the person sharing the concern should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible. The records must be kept confidentially, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR. The data will be retained as per the Emmaus MAC policy for retaining staff personnel records.

Records regarding low-level concerns will be reviewed across the MAC so that potential patterns of concerning, inappropriate, problematic or concerning behaviour can be identified. Where a pattern of behaviour is identified the MAC/school will decide on a course of action, either through the Emmaus Catholic MAC Disciplinary Policy and Procedure or where a pattern of behaviour moves from a low-level concern to meeting the harm threshold, in which case it should be referred to the LADO (as per Part four, Section one of KCSIE, Sep 2024). Consideration will also be given to whether there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the behaviour to occur and where appropriate policies could be revised, or extra training delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.

The guidance in KCSIE, Sep 2024, para. 448 will be followed in respect of references and low-level concerns.

#### **5.0 Honesty and Integrity**

Staff must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This particularly includes the handling and claiming of money and the use of company facilities, property and resources.

##### **5.1 Dealing with MAC Money**

Staff must ensure that public funds are used in a responsible and lawful manner, in accordance with MAC procedures and the Academy Trust Handbook.



## **5.2 Bribery Gifts and Hospitality**

Colleagues should ensure that they comply with the guidance as set out in the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (including gifts and Hospitality).

## **6.0 Communicating with Students**

Staff must never use their personal private e-mail address or personal private mobile telephone number to communicate with pupils. All electronic communication with pupils must be from the member of staff's company/school e-mail account or the company/school's virtual learning environment or by using a company/school provided mobile telephone.

Staff must not have pupils as "friends" on any social network which they may use and should take every possible precaution to ensure that their privacy settings are at the highest possible setting.

Staff must exercise extreme caution and professional judgement in deciding whether to have former pupils as "friends" on any social network which they use.

Staff should refer to the MAC Online Safety Policy including MAC Staff ICT Acceptable Use Policy for further guidance.

## **7.0 Physical Contact and Restraint of Students**

The use of unwarranted physical force against a pupil is likely to constitute a criminal offence. There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools to use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that can involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a child needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either a passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.

The use of physical intervention should be avoided if at all possible, however, by law, teaching staff, and other staff who are authorised to have control or charge of pupils may use such force or physical contact as is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence.
- Injuring themselves or others.
- Causing damage to property, including their own.
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to good order and behaviour at the School or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

Where a member of staff has to make physical contact with a pupil the following guidelines must be followed:

- The intended action must be explained to the pupil.
- The action must not be carried out if the pupil appears to be apprehensive or reluctant, or if staff have concerns about the pupil's possible reaction.
- If taking place in a room the door should be open and a colleague or another pupil present.
- Alternative approaches must be considered first.

Consideration must be taken of the risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND, mental health problems or with medical conditions owing to their additional vulnerability and reasonable adjustments made, where appropriate, as outlined in KCSIE, Sep 2024, para 168 and the DfE document, Use of Reasonable Force, July 2013.

Where school staff have been, for example, MAPA or Team Teach trained, then it would be preferable for such staff to deal with incidents requiring reasonable force, however, this may not be possible, therefore, consideration of the child's safety and the decision on whether or not to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned within the context of the law and should always depend on individual circumstances.

Any incidents of restraint must be reported to the (Executive) Principal for logging (either via the school's electronic system or via the numbered, bound book).

Any concerns about an instance of physical contact between a member of staff and pupil must be reported to the (Executive) Principal, Head of School or Vice Principal at the earliest opportunity.

### **8.0 Conduct Outside of Work**

All staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and those with whom they work.

Staff may undertake work outside the MAC/School, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the MAC/School nor be at a level which will affect the member of staff's work performance. Staff undertaking additional employment must not use company time or equipment for that purpose without the prior and express permission of the CEO/(Executive) Principal.

Staff should not:

- Behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or to act as an appropriate role model.
- Make, or encourage others to make sexual remarks to, or about, a student.
- Use inappropriate language to, or in the presence of students, discuss their personal or sexual relationships with, or in the presence of students.
- Make (or encourage others to make) unprofessional personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate, or might be interpreted as such.
- The responsibility to maintain public confidence and not to bring Emmaus Catholic MAC into disrepute also extends to standards of behaviour outside of School. All employees should ensure they behave in a way that befits the high status of their profession.
- Reports of public disorder, impropriety and behaviour which has the potential to cause the MAC reputational damage, could all be grounds for disciplinary action in line with the Emmaus Catholic MAC Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

In addition to the above, all teachers are required to uphold the Teacher Standards, Part A and Part B, at all times.

Whilst we do not intend to restrict outside activities, it is important to remember that activities whether during or outside of working hours which result in adverse publicity to Emmaus Catholic MAC, or which cause us to lose faith in your integrity, may result in disciplinary action.

Staff should avoid unnecessary contact with pupils outside of school and must maintain a professional approach and distance if they find themselves in a social setting where students are present. Staff must:

- Never give pupils details of their home address, home telephone number, mobile telephone number or personal e-mail address.
- Never make arrangements to meet pupils, individually or in groups, unless permission to do so has been received from the (Executive) Principal for a school-related activity.
- Never invite pupils, individually or in groups to their home.
- Never transport pupils, individually or in groups, in their own vehicle unless permission to do so has been received from the (Executive) Principal. And in accordance with the OEAP National Guidance 'Transport In Private cars' (updated March 2024).

Staff must notify the CEO and (Executive) Principal at the earliest possible opportunity if charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offence, or if they accept a formal police caution. The MAC acknowledges that a caution is not a criminal conviction, but staff must be aware that cautions have to be declared during Disclosure & Barring checks unless they meet the filtering rules of the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Criminal offences that involve violence or inappropriate financial activity or the use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as incompatible with that person working in an education/school setting. Such behaviours are likely to result in the member of staff's dismissal and for teachers a prohibition order.

The MAC acknowledges that a member of staff charged with an offence is innocent until proven guilty, however, special considerations will apply if the offence is relevant to safeguarding.

Staff must exercise extreme caution when using all forms of information technology and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.) and be aware of the risks to themselves and others. Staff should have privacy controls set at the highest possible setting and must not engage in the inappropriate use of social network sites in a manner which may bring themselves, the MAC, the school or school community into disrepute. In line with the MAC Online Safety and Staff ICT Acceptable Use policies, staff must remember that:

- Anything posted online is potentially public and permanent.
- That the privacy settings of their "friends" may not be as secure as their own.
- It is always necessary to use "strong" passwords that contain a mixture of upper & lower case letters, numbers and symbols.

#### **9.0 Attendance and Timekeeping**

- Staff contracts of employment contain the main terms and conditions of their employment with the MAC.
- Staff must follow the Central Team/each school's requirements for reporting absence due to sickness.
- Staff should be present and ready to start work in line with their contractual working hours.
- Staff must also remain in the workplace and continue to work until they have completed their contractual working hours.

#### **10.0 Signing In And Out/Staff ID etc**

Staff must follow the signing in and out procedures in operation in their school or the Central Team.

An Emmaus Catholic MAC lanyard must be worn at all times on MAC premises.

### **11.0 Communications**

Staff should have their personal mobile and other smart devices either switched off, or in silent mode, during working hours. Discretion should be exercised when using a personal mobile device and any use must not cause a distraction from work for the employee themselves or their colleagues. Personal calls and text messages should not be made during working hours; they should only be made during your lunch or other breaks. Staff should obtain authorisation from their line manager if they need to make or receive an urgent personal phone call. In addition, it is forbidden to:

- give personal phone numbers or home phone numbers to students / parents etc.
- take pictures of students / colleagues, company premises, customers or clients using personal mobile devices.
- transfer files via Bluetooth or other insecure mobile networks.

### **12.0 Alcohol, Illegal Substances and Medication**

The MAC accepts that alcohol is legally and freely available and acknowledges that some illegal substances are also readily obtainable. Staff are not expected to use illegal substances. Staff must ensure that the use of alcohol out of working hours does not adversely affect their work performance, and that, in accordance with their obligations under health and safety legislation, they take reasonable care of the health and safety of themselves and others whilst at work. Emmaus MAC schools and Central Team are alcohol and illicit substance free establishments. The MAC will not accept employees arriving at work under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs and whose ability is impaired in any way by reason of the consumption of alcohol or illicit drugs. Neither alcohol nor illicit drugs should be consumed on MAC premises. Staff should have regard to the expectation that they will not bring the MAC into disrepute.

Staff who are prescribed a type of medication which they have not taken before should make themselves aware of possible side-effects. In accordance with their duty to take reasonable care of their own and their colleagues' health and safety, they should advise the MAC if the medication starts to affect their ability to do their job or travel safely to work, or if there is a likelihood that this will happen. The MAC should undertake risk assessments and take occupational or other specialist advice as appropriate.

### **13.0 Smoking**

The MAC is a non-smoking educational establishment. No-one is permitted to smoke in the buildings or on the sites at any time.

### **14.0 Use of MAC Premises or Facilities For Work Not Connected With The MAC**

Staff must not use the MAC/school's premises or facilities for activities that are not connected with their employment at the school without express prior written agreement from the (Executive) Principal/Local Governing Body or CEO/Directors. This includes the personal use of school email, telephones, computers, photocopiers or other equipment.

### **15.0 Health and Safety**

Staff must ensure that they follow the procedures relating to health and safety as set out in the Emmaus MAC Health and Safety Policy.

### **16.0 Personal Property**

Staff are solely responsible for the safety of their personal possessions on company premises and should ensure that their personal possessions are kept in a safe place at all times.

### **17.0 Publications and Dealing With The Press**

Employees must not make comments to the press or other media, including social networking sites, on behalf of the MAC/school unless specifically authorised to do so by the CEO. Where requests for comments are received, they must be passed on to the (Executive) Principal who will contact the CEO immediately.

Staff must not publish any material which will bring the MAC/school into disrepute.

If employees wish to publish an article unconnected with the MAC/school, then the article should not link them to the MAC/school without express prior permission from the CEO.

### **18.0 Other Linked Policies:**

- Emmaus Catholic MAC Online Safety Policy including Acceptable Use Policy
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (including Gifts and hospitality)
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Data Protection Policy
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Staff Professional Appearance Policy
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Safeguarding Policy (including Child Protection) – school versions as provided by the relevant LA
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Health & Safety Policy
- School Educational Visits Policy and Procedures
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Allegations Against Staff (including low-level concerns) Policy
- Emmaus Catholic MAC Statement of Behaviour Principles

Staff who have concerns about any aspect of the professional conduct of any colleague, should also refer to the MAC Whistleblowing Policy (Appendix One).

This Staff Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually, or in line with changes to KCSIE, by the Board of Directors.



## Appendix One - Whistle Blowing Policy

### Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

**This Whistle Blowing Policy has been approved and adopted by Emmaus Catholic Multi-Academy Company (MAC) on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 and will be reviewed in August 2025.**

Signed by Director of Emmaus Catholic MAC: *J Griffin*

Signed by CEO for Central Team: *S Horan*

Schools to which this policy relates:

**This policy relates to all Emmaus schools.**



## DEFINITIONS

In this Whistle Blowing Policy, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i. 'Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company' means the MAC named at the beginning of this Policy and includes all sites upon which the MAC undertaking is, from time to time, being carried out.
- ii. 'Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company' means the company responsible for the management of the MAC and, for all purposes, means the employer of staff at the MAC.
- iii. 'Board' means the board of Directors of the Multi Academy Company.
- iv. 'Chair' means the Chair of the Board as appointed from time to time.
- v. 'Clerk' means the Clerk to the Board as appointed from time to time.
- vi. 'Chief Executive Officer (CEO)' means the person responsible for performance of all Schools and staff within the Multi Academy Company and is accountable to the Board of Directors.
- vii. 'Chief Finance and Operations Officer (CFOO)' means the person to whom responsibility for the MAC's detailed financial procedures is delegated as outlined in the Academies Financial Handbook.
- viii. 'Diocesan Schools Commission' means the education service provided by the diocese in which the MAC is situated, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Diocesan Education Service.
- ix. 'Directors' means directors appointed to the Board from time to time.
- x. 'Governor' means, the representatives appointed or elected to the Local Governing Body, from time to time.
- xi. '(Executive) Principal' means the most senior Teacher in the School who is responsible for its management and administration. Such Teacher may also be referred to as the Head of School or Headteacher.
- xii. 'Local Governing Body' means, (if appropriate to the context), the representatives appointed and elected to carry out specified functions in relation to the School as delegated by the Multi Academy Company.
- xiii. 'Teacher' means a teacher employed by the Multi Academy Company to work at the School and, where the context so admits, includes the (Executive) Principal.
- xiv. 'Working Week' means any week that you would ordinarily work.



## 1. APPLICATION

This Whistleblowing Policy applies to you if you are an employee or worker of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company (Emmaus Catholic MAC).

## 2. SCOPE

2.1 Whistleblowing is the disclosure by staff of what they consider to be malpractice by a co-worker or manager. This malpractice may constitute any behaviour felt to be detrimental to the best interests of the MAC, individual School, its stakeholders and its employees. Specific examples of issues covered by the Whistleblowing Policy include:

2.1.1 Any unlawful act.

2.1.2 Failure to comply with any legal obligations or regulatory requirements.

2.1.3 Health and safety issues.

2.1.4 Damage to the environment.

2.1.5 Unauthorised use of public funds, to include financial fraud or mismanagement.

2.1.6 Fraud and corruption of any description.

2.1.7 Inappropriate or improper conduct (including bullying or harassment).

2.1.8 Serious failure to comply with appropriate professional standards.

2.1.9 Breach of the MAC's Constitution or other policy or code of practice.

2.1.10. Discrimination of any kind.

2.1.11. Any form of unethical conduct, including unauthorised disclosure of confidential information.

2.2 A whistleblower is a person who raises a genuine concern relating to any of the above. If you have genuine concerns related to suspected wrongdoing or changes affecting any of our activities (a whistleblowing concern) you should report it under this policy.

2.3. The Whistleblowing Policy does not apply to raising grievances about an employee's personal situation with work. Any such concerns should be raised under the existing provisions for raising grievances.

2.4 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment, and we may amend it at any time.

2.5. Provided that you act in good faith, and that you have a reasonable suspicion that the alleged malpractice has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, you can disclose your concerns, using this procedure, and be protected by law from victimisation or dismissal.

The law in question is the Public Interest Disclosure Act, which came into force in 1999.

Although not strictly required by the Act, the MAC's internal procedures give effect to it. The MAC believes that having internal procedures is in everyone's interest.

- 2.6 If you are uncertain whether something is within the scope of this policy you should seek advice from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) whose contact details are at the end of this policy.

### **3. AIMS OF THE POLICY**

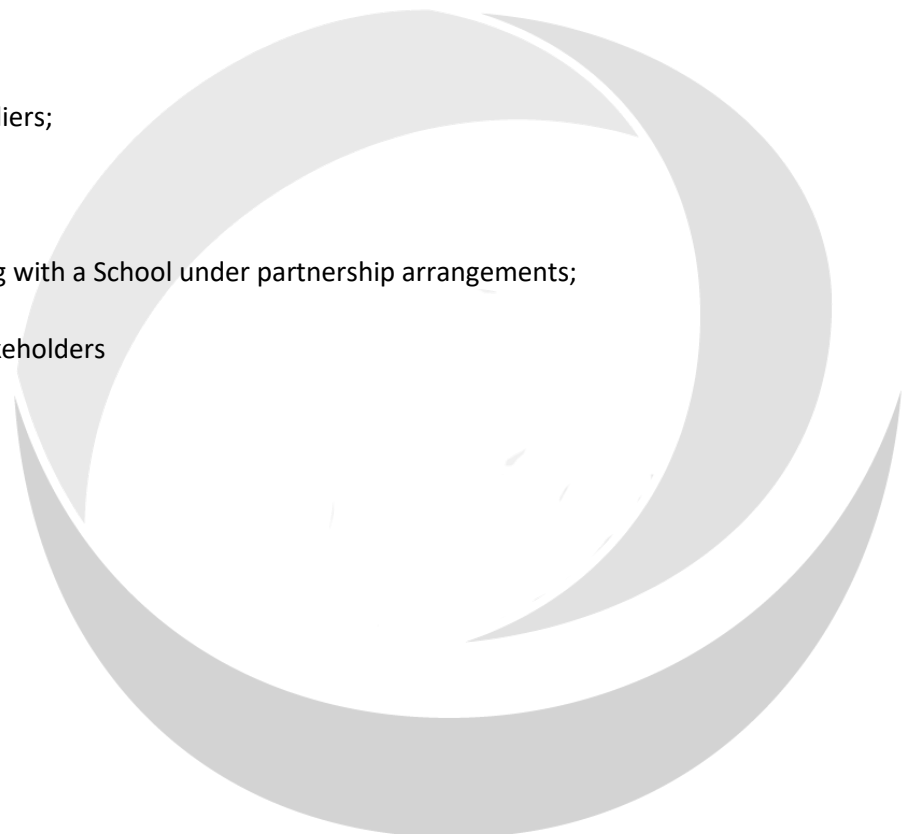
- 3.1. The aims of the MAC's Whistleblowing Policy are as follows:

- 3.1.1. Encourage employees to feel confident about raising concerns and to question and act on those concerns;
- 3.1.2. Provide ways for staff to raise concerns and receive feedback on any action taken as a result;
- 3.1.3. Reassure staff that if they raise concerns in good faith and reasonably believe them to be true, they will be protected from possible reprisals or victimisation;
- 3.1.4. Ensure that employees are aware of options available to them if they are dissatisfied with the MAC's initial response.

### **4. WHO IS COVERED BY THE POLICY?**

- 4.1 The MAC's Whistleblowing Policy applies equally to all of the following groups:

- 4.1.1. All employees (including part time and temporary staff);
- 4.1.2. Officers;
- 4.1.3. Agency staff working for a School;
- 4.1.4. Consultants;
- 4.1.5. Contractors and suppliers;
- 4.1.6. Volunteers;
- 4.1.7. Organisations working with a School under partnership arrangements;
- 4.1.8. Service users and stakeholders



## **5. WHAT ASSURANCE DOES THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY PROVIDE?**

- 5.1 Individuals raising concerns under the Whistleblowing Policy will not be at risk of any form of retribution or sanction, including losing their job or contract with the MAC, provided that:
- 5.1.1. The disclosure is made in good faith, and;
  - 5.1.2. There is a genuine and reasonable belief that the information, and any allegations contained in it, is substantially true, and;
  - 5.1.3. The disclosure is not motivated by personal gain.
- 5.2 The company will not tolerate the harassment or victimisation of anyone raising a genuine concern. However, where matters that are known to be untrue are raised maliciously, it is likely that disciplinary action will be taken against perpetrators.

## **6. MAKING A DISCLOSURE/RAISING A CONCERN**

The MAC has established the following primary mechanisms for staff to report their concerns:

- 6.1.1. To make a disclosure either telephone or write to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or write to the named Director for Whistle blowing listed at the end of the policy. If writing, mark the envelope: 'Strictly Private and Confidential'. Do not email the Chief Executive Officer or named Director, as email is not a secure medium and must not be used.
- 6.1.2. The Chief Executive Officer or named Director for Whistleblowing will acknowledge receipt of your disclosure in writing, within 5 working days. They will also gather further information if need be, including by personal interview, at which you can be accompanied by an official of your trade union or professional association, or by a fellow colleague. Your companion must respect the confidentiality of your disclosure and any subsequent investigation.
- 6.1.3. Lines of communication for reporting fraud can be found in the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company Anti-Fraud Policy.
- 6.1.4. Concerns may be raised verbally or in writing;
- 6.1.5. Whilst anonymous allegations will be considered and action taken where appropriate, it is much more difficult to properly investigate matters raised anonymously. The Whistleblowing Policy is designed to protect staff raising genuinely held concerns and individuals utilising the provisions of the policy are encouraged to identify themselves. Obviously, feedback (where appropriate) relating to any investigation that has been undertaken can only be provided where contact details are known.

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 7.1 The MAC will treat your disclosure in confidence and only reveal your identity if absolutely necessary (e.g. if required in connection with legal action).

## **8. HOW WILL THE MAC RESPOND?**

- 8.1 The MAC's response will depend on the nature of the concern that has been raised.

- 8.2 In all instances, the MAC will:

8.2.1 Record and acknowledge the issue raised and refer it for investigation within five days of receiving the information.

8.2.2 Respect confidentiality. The MAC will do its best to protect your identity when you raise a concern and do not want your name to be disclosed. It must be appreciated, however, that this is not always possible. The investigation process may reveal the source of the information and a statement by you may be required as part of the evidence. The person investigating the matter will be informed of any confidentiality requirements relating to the disclosure;

8.2.3 Decide on appropriate action e.g. Audit Services investigation, other internal investigation, and referral to the police or other external organisation;

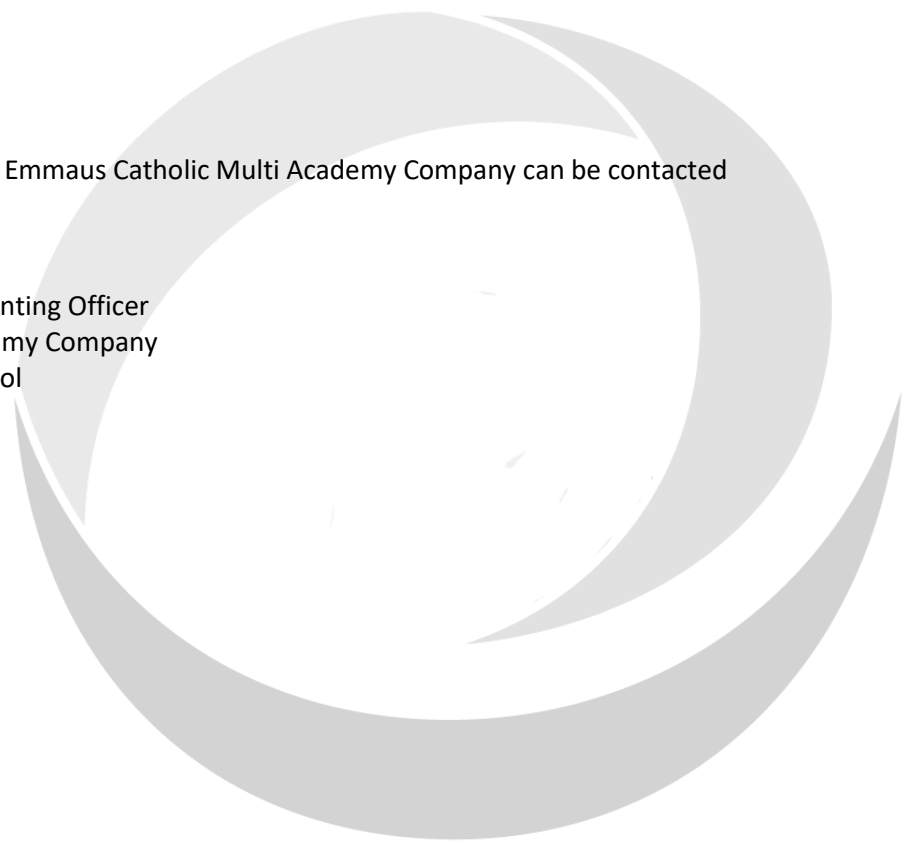
8.2.4 Subject to any legal constraints, the relevant employee will normally be informed of the final outcome of any investigation undertaken.

8.2.5 Safeguarding issues will be reported to the appropriate Local Authority Safeguarding Board.

## **9. CONTACT DETAILS**

The Chief Executive Officer of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company can be contacted at the address below:

Mrs S Horan  
Chief Executive Officer/Accounting Officer  
Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company  
c/o Hagley Catholic High School  
Hagley  
Worcestershire  
DY8 2XL  
Tel: 01384 210542



The named Director for Whistleblowing for Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company can be contacted at the address below:

Mr P Parry  
Director  
Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company  
c/o Hagley Catholic High School  
Hagley  
Worcestershire  
DY8 2XL  
Tel: 01384 210542

## 10. HOW CAN A CONCERN BE TAKEN FURTHER?

10.1 Where individuals are dissatisfied with action taken by the MAC in respect of issues raised under the Whistleblowing Policy, they should raise their concerns with The Chair of the Board of Directors, c/o Hagley Catholic High School, Brake Lane, Hagley, DY8 2XL. If they remain dissatisfied, the following organisations may be contacted for advice:

### 1. Director of Schools

Birmingham Diocesan Education Service  
Don Bosco House  
Coventry Road  
Coleshill  
Birmingham  
B46 3EA  
Tel: 01675 464755

### 2. The National Audit Office

Whistleblowing Hotline  
Tel: 020 7798 7999  
Email: [enquiries@nao.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nao.gsi.gov.uk)

### 3. The Charity 'Protect'

Protect  
CAN Mezzanine  
7-14 Great Dover Street  
London  
SE1 4YR  
Tel: 020 3117 2520  
Email: [whistle@protect-advice.org.uk](mailto:whistle@protect-advice.org.uk)

### 4. Secretary of State for Education

Secretary of State  
Department for Education  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

### 5. The Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd

PSAA Limited  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3HZ

### 6. The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales

Children's Commissioner for England  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

[whistleblowing@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:whistleblowing@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

**7. Health and Safety Executive**

Health and Safety Executive  
19 Ridgeway  
9 Quinton Business Park  
Quinton  
Birmingham  
B32 1AL

**8. Information Commissioner**

The Office of the Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
  
Tel: 01625 545700

