

Urmston Primary School

Staff Code of Conduct

2019-21 (Reviewed)

The school is required to set out a Code of Conduct for all employees.

The Code of Conduct outlines the expected conduct of staff at all times. All communication and interaction between members of staff, children, parents, carers, governors and visitors must reflect our Code of Conduct.

• Staff are expected to be conscientious and loyal to the values, aims and objectives of Urmston Primary School.

• In addition, staff are required to develop and maintain the professional character of the school.

All staff employed by Urmston Primary school are to follow the Code of Conduct. Staff should be aware that a failure to comply with the following Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action including dismissal.

Volunteers and governors are also expected to follow the code of conduct.

Throughout this document the term ‘staff’ should be taken to include any adult in the school (and in particular teachers, teaching assistants, other support staff, governors and volunteers).

**Due to the pandemic, there are some specific elements that have been added.**

**General**

It is an expectation that all members of staff (and adult volunteers, governors and visitors) model courteous and respectful behaviour to the children through their appearance and all aspects of their conduct. This includes the way in which adults talk to the children as well as to each other.

**Staff are expected to model behaviour which reflects the values of our school community: to be kind, respectful, happy, responsible, proud and resilient.**

A Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the standards of behaviour all staff are expected to observe, and the school should notify staff of this code and the expectations therein.

Staff may be in a unique position of influence and must adhere to behaviour that models the highest possible standards. Each staff member has an individual responsibility to maintain their reputation and the reputation of the school whether inside or outside working hours, *and,* ***in the current circumstances, this includes adhering to the expectations and risk assessment surrounding Covid-19 and social distancing measures, both inside and outside of school.***

**Staff rights**

To:-

• Work in an atmosphere of mutual respect

• Be treated fairly

• Be listened to and for views to be respected

• Be valued for the efforts and strengths of the work undertaken and to receive support for those areas that need developing

• Work in a clean, safe, secure, unthreatening stimulating and well organised work place

• Be kept appropriately informed through open channels of communication

• Have a workload that is conducive to work-life balance

**Staff Responsibilities**

To:-

• Put children at the centre of all that we do

• Separate personal and professional lives by creating clearly defined boundaries

• Challenge prejudice in the workplace and support colleagues of all social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds

• Listen to and respect the opinions of others

• Support the development of others

• Promote positive relationships with pupils and the local community

• Safeguard the emotional and physical well-being of pupils

• Arrive on time for events/activities appropriately dressed

• Switch mobile phones off during teaching time, staff meetings and when on playground duty

• Raise concerns in a non-threatening manner before they become a more serious problem

• Take responsibility for the working environment leaving it as others would wish to find it

• Challenge unprofessional behaviour in an appropriate manner

* Monitor the number of hours they work and to ensure that they are rested and refreshed and able to carry out their role. On average employees should not work more than 48 hours in total each week unless they have opted out of the Working Time Regulations.
* ***Model good hygiene, health and safety measures in relation to infection control and social distancing.***

**The school will:-**

• To the best of its ability provide high quality CPD for all staff

• Ensure appropriate performance management procedures are in effect

• Value staff achievements and support their further development

• Treat the workforce both fairly and consistently

• Ensure the environment is clean, and that resources are well maintained and accessible, ***especially considering guidelines surrounding Covid-19***

• Listen to the ideas and concerns of all staff

• Raise management concerns with staff appropriately

• Be aware of the requirement to ensure the work-life balance of staff and consider workload when drawing up policies

• Endeavour to make the school an enjoyable place to work.

**2 Setting an example**

2.1 All staff who work at Urmston Primary School must set examples of behaviour and conduct in line with our values and ethos, which can be copied by pupils. Staff must therefore not use inappropriate or offensive language at any time.

2.2 All staff must, therefore, demonstrate the highest standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils to do the same.

2.3 All staff must also avoid putting themselves at risk of allegations of abusive or unprofessional conduct.

2.4 This Code helps all staff to understand what behaviour is and is not acceptable.

**3 Safeguarding Pupils**

3.1 Staff, governors and volunteers have a duty to safeguard pupils from:

• physical abuse

• sexual abuse

• emotional abuse

• neglect

3.2 The duty to safeguard pupils includes the duty to report concerns about a pupil to the school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection.

3.3 The school’s DSL will follow policy and procedures linked to safeguarding.

3.4 Copies of the school’s Child Protection Policy and Whistleblowing Procedure are available from the school. Staff must be familiar with these documents.

3.5 Staff must not demean or undermine pupils, their parents or carers, or colleagues.

3.6 Staff must take the utmost care of pupils under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

3.7 Staff must follow the school’s Use of Reasonable Force/Positive Touch policy

3.8 Staff must not use their personal mobile phone as a camera in school. Any photograph/video must be taken using school equipment. Staff must only save images on school computers/devices.

**4 Pupil Development**

4.1 Staff must comply with school policies and procedures that support the well-being and development of pupils.

4.2 Staff must co-operate and collaborate with colleagues, schools and with external agencies where necessary to support the development of pupils.

4.3 Staff must follow reasonable instructions that support the development of pupils.

**5 Honesty and Integrity**

5.1 Staff must maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes the handling and claiming of money.

5.2 All staff must comply with the Bribery Act 2010. A person may be guilty of an offence of bribery under this act if they offer, promise or give financial advantage or other advantage to someone; or if they request, agree or accept ,or receive a bribe from another person. If you believe that a person has failed to comply with the Bribery Act, you should refer to the Whistleblowing procedure.

5.3 Staff have a duty to report any concerns they have about any adult or child in the school and the school has a duty to investigate and take appropriate action.

But staff should also be aware that making a false accusation could lead to disciplinary action, clearly the school and governors would wish to differentiate between an honest mistake and wilful mis-conduct in this matter, making an honest mistake will not lead to disciplinary action.

**6 Conduct outside Work**

6.1 Staff must not engage in conduct outside work which could seriously damage the reputation and standing of the school or the employee’s own reputation or the reputation of other members of the school. Any such conduct could lead to dismissal.

6.2 In particular, criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable and could lead to dismissal.

6.3 Staff must exercise caution when using information technology and be aware of the risks to themselves and others. Staff must not use social media e.g. Facebook with pupils and parents.

6.4 Staff must not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, schools or wider community into disrepute.

6.5 Staff must only use their school email account for work purposes.

**7 Staff/pupil relationships**

7.1 It is an offence under Section 16 of The Sexual Offences Act 2003 for a person aged 18 or over to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if the relationship is consensual.

**8 Outside Commitments**

8.1 Conflicts of interest may occur if a decision of the school could affect an employee, or their close friends or relatives, either positively or negatively. Interests could include: involvement with businesses which have existing or proposed contracts with school. Employees should ask themselves, ‘Would a member of the public think that they or their family would benefit from the connection between their personal interest and their employment with the school?’ If the answer is yes, then they must declare their interest to the head teacher in writing.

8.2 Employees may hold their own personal and political views but must act professionally at work and not allow these views to interfere with their work.

8.3 Employees should ensure that their activities outside work do not conflict with their duty to the school.

8.4 All teaching staff should inform the head teacher before engaging in any other business or accepting additional employment.

8.5 Any additional employment should not conflict with the school’s interests, the role the employee fulfils for the school, or have the potential to bring the school into disrepute.

8.6 Employees may not set up a business, or accept a job with a business, which is in direct competition with the school. Employees should check with the head teacher where further clarification is required.

8.7 If an employee works for another organisation they may not act as a messenger between that organisation and the school. Formal channels of communication must be maintained.

8.8 Any secondary employment must not be carried out during an employee’s contracted school working hours, nor whilst on standby for official call out purposes, unless such employment can be undertaken from their home.

**9 Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship**

9.1 Staff must not accept any fee or reward for work done other than their pay and allowances as set out in their contract of employment except as set out in paragraph 8.4 above.

9.2 It is an offence under the Prevention of corruption Acts for employees to accept gifts, loans, fees or rewards as an inducement to act in a certain way in their official capacity. Notwithstanding this, employees may accept small items of gratitude in the course of their employment from time to time. However, if they are in any doubt about the circumstances, or motivation, for expressing such gratitude, they should declare the expression of gratitude to the head teacher. In addition, employees may only accept an offer of a more significant gift (as a guide – worth more than £25) or hospitality (e.g. visits, meals, sporting events, etc) if there is a genuine need to do so in order to represent the school and community.

9.3 Gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to staff or members of their family as a consequence of their employment must be declared to the head teacher in writing whether accepted or not.

9.4 Staff should never accept significant gifts or hospitality from pupils, parents, carers, actual or potential contractors or outside suppliers.

9.5 If an external organisation wishes, or is sought, to sponsor a school activity, the rules concerning acceptance of gifts and hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors. The head teacher must be involved in any decision.

9.6 Where the school wishes to sponsor an event or service, no employee or member of their family must benefit from it unless a full disclosure of interest has been made to the head teacher. All sponsorship must be recorded.

**10 Confidentiality**

10.1 Where staff have access to confidential information about colleagues, pupils or their parents or carers, staff must not reveal such information except to those colleagues who have a professional role in relation to the individual.

10.2 All staff are likely at some point to witness actions which need to be confidential. For example: where a pupil is bullied by another pupil (or by a member of staff), this needs to be reported and dealt with in accordance with the appropriate schools procedure. It must not be discussed outside of the school, including with the pupil’s parent or carer, nor with colleagues in the school except with a senior member of staff with the appropriate role and authority to deal with the matter.

10.3 However, staff have an obligation to share with the Headteacher or school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead any information which gives rise to concern about the safety or welfare of a pupil/student. Staff must never promise a pupil/student that they will not act on information that they are told by the pupil.

**11 Disciplinary Action**

11.1 All staff need to recognise that failure to meet these standards of behaviour and conduct may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

**12 Dress Code**

*12.1 Staff Dress Policy*

The board of governors takes the view that all staff at the school should be dressed appropriately for their particular role. The GB is also mindful of the need to avoid direct or indirect discrimination against any employee on the grounds of their sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or age.

The Governing Body is aware of its responsibility to consider possible health and safety issues in determining an acceptable dress code.

*12.2 Standard of Dress*

In general the dress of all teaching and support staff must be tidy and smart, reflecting the business-like ethos that the governors wish to foster and maintain in staff and pupils.

The governors accept those engaged in caretaking, cleaning and lunchtime supervision will wear dress appropriate for their work.

Jeans should not be worn except by premises and lunchtime supervising staff.

12.3 Footwear should also be smart and safe. Shoes and not trainers should be worn for classroom activities. (An exception is if teachers or other adults are involved in PE lessons – in which case it is appropriate for adults to wear sensible PE kit including trainers, please be mindful of where and when you get changed – it is very strongly suggested you use the staff toilets).

No inappropriately casual clothing should be worn including any items deemed to be too revealing or carrying logos that could be offensive in any way.

The Head Teacher is empowered to determine the standard of smartness that is acceptable.

12.4 Cleaning and Premises Maintenance Staff working in these areas, where particular dress is necessary for health and safety reasons, must wear appropriate dress. Staff should note that it can be a criminal offence not to wear safety dress in certain situations. (E.g. headwear in kitchens, and hard hats in construction areas).

Failing to wear the correct safety dress can amount to gross misconduct which could lead to dismissal.

*13 Religious Symbols, Ornaments and Dress*

13.1 Urmston Primary will not discriminate, directly or indirectly, against any pupil or staff member on the grounds of their religion or belief. The wearing of religious symbols, ornaments and certain dress will be permitted unless it impinges on the pupils’ ability to learn in a safe and positive environment.

**14 Use of mobile phones**

14.1 The use of personal mobile phones by staff is only permitted at break times and in areas to which children do not normally have access – e.g. the staff room. Mobile phones should never be used by staff while teaching or supervising children. Never use your own mobile devices to take pictures of children.

**15 Social Media**

15.1 Members of staff should exercise extreme caution when using all forms of social media. The school expects all members of staff to set high professional standards and to act as role models for children. The posting of messages or pictures that undermines this expectation could lead to formal disciplinary measures.

**Complaints**

Any complaints about the operation of this policy should be made at first to the Head Teacher. If not satisfied, the complainant may take his/her complaint to the governing body via the Clerk to the Governing Body. The governors’ decision will be final.

**Monitoring and Review**

The Head Teacher will report annually on the working of this policy, and any adult working or visiting the school may suggest amendments at any time to be considered by the governors.

Date of policy: November 2019

Review date: November 2021

Headteacher: S. Parker

Chair of Governors: D Brown

**Appendix 1 – aide memoire for all staff**

Use your common sense and good judgement at all times – don’t take any action (physical or verbal) in the heat of the moment. Always ask yourself “how will this look to others?”

**When we speak to others we will:**

• use a positive statement rather than a negative one so that children can learn what we expect of them in any situation.

• use a calm tone of voice at all times, to explain something to or instruct the children, so that they can follow our words without feeling threatened or uncomfortable.

• avoid using sarcastic words or phrases as these demean children and prevent them from developing high self-esteem.

• speak respectfully to other adults at all times, even if we disagree with them.

**As professionals we will:**

• avoid workplace gossip and negativity as it breeds resentment and becomes a roadblock to effective communication and collaboration. We all have a duty to take active steps to divert conversations away from this if we come across it.

• maintain confidentiality about anything that we see or hear in the workplace or in schools, so that colleagues, parents, children and outside agencies can trust us, and as a way of showing respect to our fellow professionals.

• work as part of a team, contributing as well as learning from others and helping to build up a strong workforce.

• work within the policies and practices set out by Urmston Primary School, so that what we do is consistent with what has been agreed between all members of the staff.

• treat everyone with respect.

• dress appropriately to show that we are here to work.

• behave in a positive way despite any personal problems that we may have, especially in front of children.

**Appendix 2 - from Teachers' Standards Effective from 1st September 2012 (DfE)**

**Personal and professional conduct**

• A teacher is expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct.

The following statements define the behaviour and attitudes which set the required

standard for conduct throughout a teacher’s career.

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession 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 a teacher’s professional position having regard for the need to safeguard pupils’ well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.

• Show 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.

• Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach, and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.

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