



# STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

## The STAR Multi-Academy Trust

<b>Date reviewed</b>	<b>Changes made</b>	<b>Date approved by the Trust Board</b>
May 2022	EPM review Addition of references to Trust, Exec Head/CEO Removal of gender references Alignment with GSWP Feb 2022	19 July 2022
May 2024	NYES HR review – updated tutoring guidelines	16 July 2024

SECTION	SUBJECT	PAGE
1	Introduction	2
2	Scope	3
3	Standards and Attitude	4
4	Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children	5
5	Behaviour Management and Restrictive Physical Intervention	6
6	Confidentiality, Disclosure and Security of Information	7
7	Outside Commitments	7
8	Relationships and Conflicts of Interest	11
9	Financial and Tendering Procedures	12
10	Dress and Appearance	13
11	Transporting pupils during and outside of normal working duties	13
12	Use of information systems	14
13	Whistleblowing	17
	Confirmation of Compliance	18
Appendix 1	Declaration of relationships with pupils outside of school	19

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the expected standards of behaviour for all Trust staff. As such, the policy:

- Makes a clear statement about the standards of conduct expected of employees of STAR MAT
- Ensures all employees and associated persons understand their obligations with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils
- Ensures the highest standards of conduct by identifying STAR MAT’s standards, which sit alongside professional codes and guidelines
- Helps all employees to act in a way which upholds the Trust’s standards and, at the same time, protects them from criticism, misunderstanding or complaint
- Helps build trust between the school and the people who come into contact with those working for it.

1.2 All individuals working in STAR MAT are expected to comply with the law as it applies to their work, particularly in matters such as health and safety, safeguarding of children and data protection. They are also expected to carry out their duties in accordance with the relevant policies, procedures, rules and guidance adopted by the STAR MAT Board of Trustees and.

1.3 In addition to this Code of Conduct, all employees engaged to work under teachers' terms and conditions of employment have a statutory obligation to adhere to the Teachers' Standards (England) and in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards – Personal and Professional Conduct.

## 2. Scope

2.1 This Code of Conduct applies to:

- **Employees** - all employees of the school, including apprentices and temporary and casual staff
- **Associated persons** - individuals providing services for the school but who are not employed, e.g., contractors and their sub-contractors, supply and agency staff, students, volunteers, secondees from other establishments and self-employed consultants

2.2 This Code does not apply to Trustees or Governors when they are fulfilling their statutory role, including as a link governor and when attending meetings with senior staff and/or the trust Board/LGB. However, should a Governor take a volunteer role within the school, then they should be considered to be an associated person under this policy whilst undertaking that role.

2.3 Disregarding this Code will, in certain circumstances, result in disciplinary action being taken in the case of employees. For associated persons failure to follow the code may result in the cessation of contractual arrangements.

2.4 All employees will be supplied with a copy of this Code, against which their conduct will be measured. Associated persons will also be issued with a copy of this Code and will be expected to comply with it whilst engaged to work with a school.

2.5 Some provisions contained within this code will continue after employment or the contractual relationship has ended e.g., the requirement to maintain confidentiality. Where this is the case, it will be highlighted within the relevant section of the code.

2.6 For ease of reading, and from this point onwards, the term 'employee' will be used for both directly employed staff and associated persons working within the school. Should the arrangements for each group differ then this will be highlighted accordingly.

## 3. Standards and Attitude

- 3.1 All employees of the Trust are expected to give the highest possible standard of service to pupils, parents and carers, fellow employees, Governors, Trustees and members of the public. The following principles exemplify the standards that are required:

***Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children***

- 3.2 Safeguarding is at the heart of the work of the Trust and all employees must undertake their work in support of the school's duties for safeguarding children and young people. Further information is given in section 4 below.

***Honesty and integrity***

- 3.3 All employees must perform their duties with integrity and be open and honest in their dealings and communications with others. They should strive to deliver on the commitments they have made and observe high ethical standards. Employees must not disclose information given to them in confidence or share confidential information where it is inappropriate or unlawful to do so. They must not allow their own personal or political opinions to interfere with their work and must at all times perform their duties in an objective manner. For further information regarding confidentiality please see section 6.

***Responsibility***

- 3.4 All employees must take responsibility for their own actions and be accountable for these. They should use any Trust funds or resources entrusted to, or handled by, them in a responsible and lawful manner. In addition, they should not make personal use of resources, property or facilities of the Trust unless properly authorised to do so. Employees must not put themselves in a situation where there is a conflict between their personal and professional interests. Please see sections 7 and 8 below for further information regarding relationships, conflict of interest and outside commitments.

***Respect for others***

- 3.5 The Trust believes that every employee has the right to work in a safe environment without the fear of discrimination, harassment or abuse. All employees must treat others with dignity and respect and should value the contribution that others can make. They should not discriminate unlawfully or inappropriately against any person and must always act in a professional and courteous manner. Employees should strive to maintain positive relations with all parties and must not act in a way which could be perceived as bullying. Please see the Trust's Equalities policy for more detail on expected standards.

- 3.6 Employees should recognise and respect the work demands of, and contributions made by, others within the workplace. This respect can be demonstrated by completing tasks to agreed deadlines, attending calendared meetings promptly and communicating effectively with others. Employees are expected to take direction and leadership from senior staff within a school.
- 3.7 The Trust aims to ensure that everyone who comes into contact with it is treated in line with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, and not in any way disadvantaged by factors which could prevent the implementation of fair policies and operations.
- 3.8 The school takes a zero tolerance approach to aggressive and violent behaviour towards its staff and, in serious cases, the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO may ban an individual or individuals from school/Trust premises.

#### **4. Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children**

- 4.1 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
- Protecting children from maltreatment
  - Preventing impairment of children's health and development
  - Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
  - Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- 4.2 Everyone who comes into contact with pupils and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. The role played by employees is particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and potentially prevent concerns from escalating.
- 4.3 All employees have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. In addition, employees have a responsibility to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. All employees then have a responsibility to take appropriate action, working with other services as needed.
- 4.4 All employees within the Trust are required to remain vigilant around pupils, be mindful of the indicators of possible abuse or neglect and act on issues of concern immediately should they arise. Such issues should be reported without undue delay to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy DSL in their absence.
- 4.5 The Trust has a Safeguarding Policy and low level concerns guidance which all employees must read and act in accordance with at all times. Relevant induction and refresher training on

safeguarding and the Safeguarding Policy will be made available to all staff within a School. Failure to attend this training without good reason will be considered a serious issue which may result in further action being taken. Associated persons may fulfil their safeguarding training requirements through alternative provision e.g., through their own employer, however, they must be able to provide evidence of such training to their school.

- 4.6 Employees of the Trust must maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. Should they have any concerns regarding the welfare of a pupil, employees should always follow their school's procedures and act in the interests of the child.
- 4.7 When allegations are made against a member of staff regarding a safeguarding issue, then the formal policy for dealing with allegations will be invoked, in line with Safeguarding Board guidance. For associated persons an appropriate process will be followed, involving that person's employer, if relevant. In certain cases, the school will make referrals to the DBS in line with its statutory obligations.
- 4.8 Failure to report issues of concern and/or failure to act in the best interests of a child will be considered as a serious issue which may, if proven, constitute gross misconduct. For associated persons an alternative process will be followed which may result in cessation of their contractual arrangements.

## **5. Behaviour Management and Restrictive Physical Intervention**

- 5.1 Staff must ensure they fully understand the school's policies on behaviour management, pupil discipline and restrictive physical intervention guidance and training and follow these at all times, using strategies appropriate to the circumstances and situation. Staff should not use any form of degrading or humiliating treatment to punish a pupil.
- 5.2 There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with children; however, it is crucial that staff only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in relation to the pupil's individual needs and any agreed care plan.
- 5.3 Any physical contact should be in response to the child's needs at that time, of limited duration and appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity and background. Employees should, therefore, use their professional judgement at all times.

## **6. Confidentiality, Disclosure and Security of Information**

- 6.1 The Trust recognises the importance of an open, transparent culture with clear communication and accountability. It is the Trust's aim to be as open as possible about its activities. The law requires that certain types of information must be available to auditors, inspectors, the Police, children's services, government departments, parents and the public. If an employee is in any doubt as to whether they can release any particular information, they should always check with the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO first.
- 6.2 The confidentiality of information received in the course of an employee's duties should be respected and must never be used for personal or political gain or to cause damage to the interests and reputation of the school, its employees and its pupils. Employees must not knowingly pass information on to others who might use it in such a way. If they believe that information should be disclosed in the public interest, they should follow the school's whistle-blowing policy before doing so. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken or the cessation of contractual arrangements.
- 6.3 Employees must not communicate confidential information or documents to others who do not have a legitimate right to know. Furthermore, information which is stored on computer or manual systems must only be disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 6.4 When an employee leaves the employment of the Trust, or an associated person ceases to work with a school, then the requirement to maintain confidentiality regarding the information gained during their employment/association will continue. In addition, on ending their employment/association with the Trust/school individuals must ensure all confidential documentation and records are returned and copies are not retained.
- 6.5 Employees must ensure that confidential information is stored securely, whether it be in documents and files, or held electronically and whether this information is held on a school's premises or taken off site.
- 6.6 Further information is available in the Trust's data protection policy, which employees must ensure that they understand and follow at all times.

## **7. Outside Commitments**

- 7.1 The Trust recognises that employees are entitled to their private lives. In general, the choices and actions of employees outside of their role are not the Trust's concern. However, in order to protect

all parties and the Trust there are exceptions to this.

### ***Conduct***

- 7.2 Whether in or outside the school or Trust environment, employees must not conduct themselves in any way which creates doubt as to their suitability for their post or which brings the school or Trust into disrepute. This includes conduct which would bring into question their suitability to work with children.
- 7.3 All adults working with children and young people have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children and young people. It is, therefore, expected that they will adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain the confidence and respect of the public in general and all those with whom they work.
- 7.4 There may be times, for example, when an adult's behaviour or actions in their personal life come under scrutiny from local communities, the media or public authorities. This could be because their behaviour is considered to compromise their position in a school setting or indicate unsuitability to work with children or young people. Misuse of drugs or acts of violence would be examples of such behaviour.
- 7.5 Adults working with children and young people should therefore understand and be aware that safe practice also involves using judgement and integrity about behaviours in places other than the work setting.
- 7.6 The behaviour or actions of an adult's partner or other family members may raise similar concerns. Careful consideration may be required if the Trust believes that this behaviour may be a potential risk to pupils or if it might impact on the suitability of an employee to work within the Trust. In such cases, the Trust will seek advice on any action that may be appropriate from the Local Authority Designated Officer.

### ***Additional work***

- 7.7 Employees are able to take on work in addition to their existing contract of employment, providing it does not conflict with the performance of their duties in the role for which they are employed.
- 7.8 An employee who wishes to take on additional work must ensure that:
  - a) the additional hours worked do not contravene the Working Time Regulations or otherwise give the Trust cause for concern about health and safety at work
  - b) the outside work does not place the employee in a position where their duties and private



interests conflict

- c) the outside work does not damage, or potentially damage, public confidence in the Trust's conduct or business.

- 7.9 All support staff employed on spinal column point 28 and above and all teaching staff, are required to obtain the consent of the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO prior to accepting additional work. The Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO will not unreasonably refuse any requests and each will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account the particular circumstances. If the additional work involves pupils of the school, for example babysitting, then the employee must inform the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO regardless of their salary grade. Such notifications should be made to help protect the employee and to ensure that relevant safeguarding information can be shared if appropriate (also see paragraph 12.20 below).
- 7.10 Associated persons are not required to obtain consent before accepting additional work. However, they should bring to the attention of the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO, any other work or activities which they undertake which may constitute a conflict of interest with the work of the Trust.
- 7.11 Employees must not undertake private or personal work, paid or unpaid, of any description during working hours or on Trust premises or using Trust equipment unless that have been given specific permission by the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO. Even if approval is granted, any fees received, e.g. lecture fees or examination board payments, may be required to be passed over to the school, or unpaid leave may be required to be taken. This will be at the discretion of the Trust. Public work (e.g. elections) is permitted and arrangements for this are covered in the Leave of Absence Policy
- 7.12 In undertaking private or personal work employees must ensure such work is clearly identified as a separate entity and not advertise such services as having any affiliation to the Trust.
- 7.13 The Trust assumes no liability for matters concerning private or personal business interests.

### ***Intellectual Property and Copyright***

- 7.14 All intellectual property rights, (that is copyright, design rights and the right to patent inventions) relating to anything created or invented by staff in the course of their duties automatically belongs to the school/Trust, unless otherwise agreed; staff cannot exploit the rights to any such thing without the written permission of the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO. Any income raised through the use or sale of these products belongs to the school/Trust.
- 7.15 The Headteacher may agree to their school collaborating with other schools to create or invent

intellectual property to be shared with other educational settings.

### ***Personal interests***

- 7.16 Employees may have a variety of personal interests, which may, from time-to-time, impact on their role for the Trust. To protect the Trust and the employee from any accusations of wrongdoing the Trust has in place a number of safeguards which demonstrate that these interests are not allowed to influence the way the school operates.
- 7.17 Whatever an employee's role within the Trust, they must declare to the CEO/Headteacher/Executive Headteacher in writing any financial or non-financial interests which could bring about conflict with the school/Trust's interests. Employees must not make, or become involved with, any official or professional decision about matters in which they have a personal interest.

### ***Gifts and Hospitality***

- 7.18 A potential source of conflict between public and private interests is the offer of gifts, hospitality or benefits in kind to employees in connection with their official duties. It is important to avoid any suggestion of improper influence and ensure that the Trust operates in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness. With this in mind, employees are required to familiarise themselves with the STAR MAT's Gifts and Hospitality policy.

### ***Sponsorship***

- 7.19 Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor a Trust/school activity or project, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic conventions concerning acceptance of gifts and hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.
- 7.20 Where the Trust/school wishes to sponsor an event or services, neither an employee nor their partner, spouse or relative must benefit from such sponsorship in a direct way with there being full disclosure to the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO of any such interest.

### ***Cautions, Charges, Convictions and Court Orders***

- 7.21 An employee must notify the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher if charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offence, or accepts a formal police caution, and should do so as soon as possible after the charge, caution or conviction. If the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher is the subject of the charge they must inform the CEO/Chair of their LGB immediately. If the CEO is the subject of the charge, they must inform the Chair of the Trust Board immediately.

- 7.22 The Trust acknowledges that a caution is not a criminal conviction, but employees must be aware that cautions have to be declared during Disclosure and Barring checks unless they meet the filtering rules of the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- 7.23 The Trust acknowledges that an employee charged with an offence is innocent until proven guilty. However, special considerations will apply if the offence is one of those which is on the list of offences relevant to safeguarding (a full list is available on the Disclosure and Barring Service's website) or if an employee is imprisoned on remand pending trial.
- 7.24 Information given to the Trust will be treated as confidential and stored securely in the same way as other confidential personal information, having regard to the guidance from the Disclosure and Barring Service on the length of time for which particular kinds of information should be stored.
- 7.25 Employees must also notify the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher if they are subject to a court order or any other conditions which may affect their suitability to work with children or any circumstances which could lead to disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 if they are employed in relevant childcare.

## **8. Relationships and Conflicts of Interest**

- 8.1 It is unlawful for appointments to be made on the basis of anything other than the ability of the candidate to undertake the duties of the post. Employees and governors involved in making appointments should do everything possible to ensure that these are made on the basis of merit and in accordance with the Trust's policy on recruitment and selection and the prevailing regulations on safer recruitment.
- 8.2 In order to avoid any possible accusations of bias, employees and governors must not become involved in any appointment or any other decision relating to the discipline, promotion, pay or conditions of another employee, or prospective employee, if they are a relative of an applicant or have a close personal relationship with them, nor where they have the opportunity to benefit, directly or indirectly, from an appointment without the express prior approval of the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher, or Chair of the Trust Board/LGB in the case of the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher.
- 8.3 In this section 'relative' means a spouse, partner, parent, parent-in-law, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, child of a partner, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or the spouse or partner of any of the preceding persons.
- 8.4 'Partner' means a couple who live together or who are involved in a romantic relationship.

- 8.5 'Close personal relationship' would include a person not employed by the Trust/school with whom an employee has a close business connection.
- 8.6 Personal relationships between colleagues who work together can give rise to conflicts of interest. Therefore, employees who have entered into a close personal or romantic relationship with a colleague are required to disclose this fact to the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher. Any information declared or disclosed should be recorded on both employees' personal files and treated in strict confidence.
- 8.7 This information should only be considered to ensure that the existence of the relationship does not impact on the smooth running of one of the Trust's schools.
- 8.8 All relationships of a business or personal nature with external contractors or suppliers, or potential contractors or suppliers, must be declared to the CEO / Executive Headteacher / Headteacher (or Chair of the Trust Board in the case of the CEO) at the earliest opportunity.

## **9. Financial and Tendering Procedures**

- 9.1 Employees should exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with all customers, contractors and subcontractors. Tendering processes must always be carried out in line with the Trust's financial policies and procedures and in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.
- 9.2 Employees responsible for engaging or supervising contractors and who have previously had, or currently have, a relationship in a private or domestic capacity with a particular contractor, must declare that relationship to the CEO/Executive Headteacher/Headteacher (or Chair of the Trust Board in the case of the CEO).
- 9.3 If employees become privy to confidential information on tenders or costs relating to external contractors they must not disclose that information to any unauthorised person or organisation.
- 9.4 All employees must ensure that special favour is not shown to current or recent former employees or their partners, close relatives or associates in awarding contracts to businesses run by them or employing them in any capacity.
- 9.5 All employees involved in financial activities and transactions on behalf of the Trust, including budgetary control, payments of accounts, payments of salaries and wages, petty cash and orders of works, goods or services must follow the financial regulations detailed in the relevant Trust policies and procedures. For the avoidance of doubt any queries should be directed to the STAR MAT COO

in the first instance.

## **10. Dress and Appearance**

- 10.1 Staff ID must be worn and visible at all times and in the event that it is not available, staff must request visitor ID
- 10.2 The Trust recognises that dress and appearance are matters of personal choice and self-expression. However, all employees must dress in a manner that is appropriate to a professional role and which promotes a professional image. This also applies to online or virtual teaching. As a general rule this means professional attire for all staff unless their role or circumstance dictates otherwise (e.g. roles such as cleaning and catering where uniform or PPE may be more appropriate). The Headteacher will act as the local arbiter in any dispute regarding the implementation of dress code.
- 10.3 Employees should dress in a manner that is not offensive, revealing or sexually provocative and in a manner that is free from political or contentious slogans. They should dress decently, safely and appropriately for the tasks they undertake and pay regard to any health and safety considerations. For safety reasons appropriate footwear should be worn taking into consideration tasks being undertaken.
- 10.4 Offensive tattoos and body art should be covered while employees are in school. Discreet earrings and body piercings are acceptable, however, those which could pose a health and safety risk whilst undertaking the tasks of the role should be removed or covered up while on school premises.
- 10.5 No caps, hats or head dress may be worn in school, except where necessary for hygiene reasons, on health and safety grounds, or have been permitted on religious, racial or medical/health grounds.

## **11. Transporting pupils during and outside of normal working duties**

- 11.1 In certain circumstances employees may be requested or offer to transport pupils in their own vehicle (e.g., for sporting events or visits to other schools). As with any other activity undertaken at work this should not be undertaken without the knowledge and permission of the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher. To help safeguard this action, it is also recommended that more than one staff member be present in such a scenario.
- 11.2 Employees should ensure that their vehicle meets all legal requirements, ensuring the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately business insured and that the maximum carrying capacity is not exceeded.

11.3 Employees should never offer to transport pupils outside of their normal working duties, other than in an emergency or where not doing so would mean the child may be at risk. In these circumstances the matter should be recorded and reported both to the Headteacher/ Executive Headteacher and the child's parent(s) / carer.

**12. Use of information systems**

(Please refer to the STAR MAT social media policy for full guidance on the use of social media)

***School systems***

12.1 The Trust wants employees to use information systems to the full and to feel competent and comfortable about doing so. However, it is essential that such systems are used appropriately. Any reference to information systems should be taken to mean computer equipment, associated technology and internet access.

12.2 The misuse of information systems is a serious matter and may result in employees being subject to disciplinary and, where appropriate, legal action.

12.3 Guidance documents are available within schools in relation to the use of computers and information technology. Employees must be familiar with, and abide by, the Trust's policies on the acceptable use of information systems.

12.4 Private use of Trust/school facilities, such as computers (including use of the internet), stationery and photocopiers is governed by these documents. Employees should not arrange to receive correspondence, telephone calls or emails in school related to outside work or private interests.

12.5 The Trust's schools may monitor the use of information systems without notice. A record of any websites accessed by employees is recorded by the school's system and may be examined later if misuse is suspected.

***Personal devices***

12.6 The Trust accepts that employees will bring their own devices into the workplace and may use them for work purposes e.g., sending and receiving work e-mails on a mobile phone or tablet. When employees are using personal devices for work purposes, including accessing Wi-Fi whilst on Trust premises, then the standards contained in this code will apply to their use.

12.7 The personal use of mobile phones during working hours should be undertaken with discretion and be primarily restricted to dealing with emergencies. Employees should not make or receive calls or texts during work time where pupils are present. Mobile phones should be on silent at all times

whilst in school and should not be left on display, with the exception of places determined by the school.

- 12.8 Employees are not permitted to use their personal devices for making voice or video recordings within school or taking photos of pupils. If there is a requirement in the individual's role to take photographs of children for school purposes, this should be carried out using school equipment which will be provided with the agreement of the Headteacher/senior manager and in line with the agreed school procedures and where appropriate permissions have been sought.

### ***Use of social networking sites***

- 12.9 Employees should ensure that they do not bring the Trust into disrepute or breach their obligations in relation to confidentiality and appropriate behaviour when using social media.

- 12.10 Employees should not access social networking/media sites during working hours. When accessing such sites outside working hours, employees are advised not to write about their work or make reference to the Trust/school or employer on external web pages. Where an employee chooses to do so they should make it clear that the views expressed are their own and do not reflect the views of the Trust/school.

- 12.11 In addition, employees must not:

- Disclose any information that is confidential to the Trust/school to any third party or disclose personal data or information about any individual, colleague, pupil or parent/carer which could be in breach of data protection legislation
- Disclose any information which is not yet in the public arena
- Post illegal material, e.g., material which incites racial hatred
- Link their own personal web pages to their school's website or the Trust's website
- Include any information, sourced from their school or the Trust, which breaches copyright
- Make defamatory remarks about the Trust, their school, colleagues, Governors, Trustees pupils and parents/carers
- Publish any material or comment that could undermine public confidence in the individual as a representative of the Trust/their school or in their position of trust within the community
- Misrepresent the Trust, by posting false or inaccurate statements about the work of the Trust

- 12.12 In circumstances where an employee makes an inappropriate comment in relation to the school or Trust or an employee of the school or Trust but does not actually name them, then the Trust may still consider taking action if it believes that the comment is damaging to the Trust.

### ***Communicating with pupils***

- 12.13 Employees work in a position of trust with pupils and it is therefore vital that this position is not abused. Individuals also need to ensure that they do not put themselves in a position where they can be accused of abusing that trust.
- 12.14 In support of this, employees must not have any communication with pupils through personal information and communication systems including personal e-mail accounts, social media sites, mobile phones, text messaging, or other means of communication, unless the student is a family member.
- 12.15 All electronic communication with pupils must be through school/Trust e-mail accounts, for both pupils and staff, and should be appropriate to the staff/pupil relationship.
- 12.16 Employees must not give out their personal mobile phone numbers or e-mail addresses to any pupils or request and/or retain the personal phone numbers or e-mail addresses of pupils.
- 12.17 The above guidance regarding communication with pupils continues to apply when the pupils have left school and/or the employee has left the school.
- 12.18 It is recognised that there may be circumstances where employees of the school are known to pupils outside of work e.g., family relationships, private tutoring, membership of clubs, etc.
- 12.19 When employees are related to pupils within their school, they are required to inform the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher, and this will be recorded on school systems. Electronic non-essential communication with pupils to whom an employee is related should take place out of working hours.
- 12.20 When employees interact with pupils from their school as a result of any additional employment they hold or volunteering they undertake, they are required to inform the Headteacher of this (or Chair of the LGB in the case of the Headteacher). A declaration form is attached at appendix 1. In these circumstances all electronic communications regarding these arrangements should take place out of working hours.
- 12.21 Exceptions to paragraphs 12.14 and 12.16 above may be agreed in writing by the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher in certain circumstances, for example, in situations of online / virtual learning or for the duration of an educational visit to ensure effective communication between staff and pupils/parents/carers. If there is no alternative, staff should always use 'caller withheld' to ensure the pupil/parent/carer is not able to identify the staff member's personal



contact details.

### **13. Whistleblowing**

- 13.1 Employees are often the first to realise that there may be something seriously wrong within an organisation. However, they may not express their concerns because they feel that speaking up would be disloyal to their colleagues or to the Trust/school. They may also fear harassment or victimisation.
- 13.2 The Trust is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment, employees, and those associated with a school/the Trust, who have serious concerns about any aspect of a school's work or the work of the Trust are expected to come forward and voice those concerns. It is recognised that most cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis.
- 13.3 In order to ensure that this can happen the Trust has adopted a whistle-blowing policy, which is available on the Trust's website. This policy is intended to encourage and enable employees to raise serious concerns about conduct in their school, rather than overlooking a problem or 'blowing the whistle' outside.

## **Code of Conduct - Confirmation of Compliance**

I hereby confirm that I have read, understood and agree to comply with the Trust code of conduct.

Name:

Position/Post held:

Signed:

Date:

**Once completed, signed and dated, please return this form to the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO.**

## Appendix 1

### Declaration of relationships with pupils outside of school

It is recognised that there may be circumstances whereby employees of the Trust are known to pupils outside of work. Examples include membership of sports groups, uniformed clubs, private tutoring, and babysitting.

Where employees have a relationship on a one-to-one basis or with a single family they should give the details below:

**Student Name:**

**Relationship:**

Continue on reverse if required.

Where employees are, for example, a group leader for a club which multiple pupils attend they should give the details below:

**Name of Group:**

**Meeting place of Group:**

**Age range of children attending:**

**Gender of children:** Male/Female/Mixed

**Governing body details for group if applicable:** e.g., Girl Guiding

**Approximate number of children in group:**

I can confirm that I am fully aware of the code of conduct relating to contact out of school with pupils in line with this policy. If I am tutoring a student outside of school, I am aware that the following must be adhered to:

- I emphasise to parents that this is done completely independently of the school and Trust
- I will not canvas or promote personal tutoring services during meetings with parents arranged in the course of my role with the Trust
- No monies come through the school at any point, informally (e.g. via the child) or formally
- No private tutoring is to take place on the school premises or during time I am employed to work for the Trust

I confirm if that if these circumstances change at any time, I will complete a new form to ensure that the school are aware of any relationships.

**Name:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Once completed, signed and dated, please return this form to the Headteacher/Executive Headteacher/CEO.**