



# Code of Conduct

<b>Formally adopted by the Governing Body of:</b>	<b>Redcastle Family School</b>
<b>On:</b>	
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	<b>Maureen Eade</b>
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## 1. Aims, scope and principles

This policy aims to set and maintain standards of conduct that we expect all staff to follow.

By creating this policy, we aim to ensure our school is an environment where everyone is safe, happy and treated with respect.

Many of the principles in this code of conduct are based on the [Teachers' Standards](#).

School staff have an influential position in the school, and will act as role models for pupils by consistently demonstrating high standards of behaviour.

We expect that all teachers will act in accordance with the personal and professional behaviours set out in the Teachers' Standards.

We expect all support staff, governors and volunteers to also act with personal and professional integrity, respecting the safety and wellbeing of others.

At Redcastle Family School we aim:

- To provide a safe, nurturing environment that enables children to learn the necessary skills to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- To ensure every stakeholder is able to challenge themselves and each other, all of the time, to be the best that they can be.
- To enable each child to develop their own self-esteem in setting their own high standards, raise aspirations, take pride in their work, to have the desire to do their best and to enjoy learning.
- To enable all pupils to make good progress appropriate to their individual abilities
- To celebrate different cultural origins and diversity, promoting tolerance, respect and understanding for all people.

Failure to follow the code of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken, as set out in our staff disciplinary procedures.

Please note that this code of conduct is not exhaustive. If situations arise that are not covered by this code, staff will use their professional judgement and act in the best interests of the school and its pupils. This document sets out the set out the principles to be observed which, if breached, may lead to disciplinary action. From time to time issues may arise which are not specifically covered within this code, but which may lead to disciplinary action if they are felt to represent unacceptable conduct.

While this code sets out the standards of behaviour expected of employees, the following questions may help employees to decide whether what they are doing (or intend to do) is acceptable:

- Is anyone's life, health or safety endangered by their action?
- Does their action "feel" right? Could they successfully justify their action to their manager, pupil, colleague or friend?
- Is their action legal, honest and does it comply with school policy, statutory requirements and approved practice?
- Does their action appear reasonable? Would they be able to justify it to the local media?
- Would they be compromised if their manager, fellow workers, or friends knew their action?

## **2. Legislation and guidance**

We are required to set out a staff code of conduct under regulation 7 of [The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#). In line with the statutory safeguarding guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)', we should have a staff code of conduct, which should cover acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications, including the use of social media.

## **3. General obligations**

Staff set an example to pupils. They will:

- Maintain high standards in their attendance and punctuality
- Never use inappropriate or offensive language in school
- Treat pupils and others with dignity and respect
- Show tolerance and respect for the rights of others
- Not undermine fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Express personal beliefs in a way that will not overly influence pupils, and will not exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law
- Understand the statutory frameworks they must act within
- Adhere to the Teachers' Standards

## **4. Safeguarding**

Staff have a duty to safeguard pupils from harm, and to report any concerns they have. This includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse, or neglect.

Staff will familiarise themselves with our safeguarding policy and procedures and the Prevent initiative, and ensure they are aware of the processes to follow if they have concerns about a child.

Our safeguarding policy and procedures are available in the staff room and from the school office. New staff will also be given copies on arrival.

## 5. Staff/pupil relationships

Staff will observe proper boundaries with pupils that are appropriate to their professional position. They will act in a fair and transparent way that would not lead anyone to reasonably assume they are not doing so.

If staff members and pupils must spend time on a one-to-one basis, staff will ensure that:

- This takes place in a public place that others can access
- Others can see in to the room
- A colleague or line manager knows this is taking place

Staff should avoid contact with pupils outside of school hours if possible.

Personal contact details should not be exchanged between staff and pupils. This includes social media profiles.

While we are aware many pupils and their parents may wish to give gifts to staff, for example, at the end of the school year, gifts from staff to pupils are not acceptable.

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

## 6. Working Relationships

At Redcastle Family School we expect all staff to treat each other in the following way:

- Be honest and professional when communicating thoughts, opinions, issues or grievances.
- Follow all reasonable and lawful instructions.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring the School's name into disrepute.
- Act in a manner that is not abusive towards another person, this includes indirect abuse for example where abusive comments are made to others out of the hearing of the target.
- Treat everyone with respect and not undermine them, bully or harass them or act towards them in a manner which is discriminatory

### Gossip

At Redcastle Family School we expect staff to refrain from one employee talking to another employee about things that employee can do nothing about. In other words, if the person you're talking to cannot change the situation, please do not discuss it with him or her. Doing so will be considered gossip. Gossip can have a wider impact on staff well-being and morale than the intended conversation or comment. We also expect Staff to consider the wider implications of discussing issues in a site where others may be affected if overheard or in instances having to observe private conversations in open work places. It also in extreme instances can be considered a form of harassment.

If someone begins to involve you in gossip, it's your responsibility to let him or her know that this is not OK. We expect all staff to follow a solution focused approach with issues being raised with the relevant line manager or Headteacher in order to find a solution. It is your responsibility to bring work place issues to only the relevant staff members and ensure any outcomes also follow the above guidelines.

## **7. Communication and social media**

School staff's social media profiles should not be available to pupils. If they have a personal profile on social media sites, they should not use their full name, as pupils may be able to find them. Staff should consider using a first and middle name instead, and set public profiles to private.

Staff should not attempt to contact pupils or their parents via social media, or any other means outside school, in order to develop any sort of relationship. They will not make any efforts to find pupils' or parents' social media profiles.

Staff will ensure that they do not post any images online that identify children who are pupils at the school without their consent. Staff should be aware of the school's e-safety policy.

## **8. Acceptable use of technology**

Staff will not use technology in school to view material that is illegal, inappropriate or likely to be deemed offensive. This includes, but is not limited to, sending obscene emails, gambling and viewing pornography or other inappropriate content.

Staff will not use personal mobile phones and laptops, or school equipment for personal use, in school hours or in front of pupils. They will also not use personal mobile phones or cameras to take pictures of pupils.

We have the right to monitor emails and internet use on the school IT system.

## **9. Confidentiality**

In the course of their role, members of staff are often privy to sensitive and confidential information about the school, staff, pupils and their parents.

This information will never be:

- Disclosed to anyone without the relevant authority
- Used to humiliate, embarrass or blackmail others
- Used for a purpose other than what it was collected and intended for

This does not overrule staff's duty to report child protection concerns to the appropriate channel where staff believe a child is at risk of harm.

## **10. Honesty and integrity**

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

Staff will not accept bribes. Gifts should be of a symbolic value only and should never be accepted in a monetary form.

Staff will ensure that all information given to the school about their qualifications and professional experience is correct.

## **11. Dress code**

Staff will dress in a professional, appropriate manner.

Outfits will not be overly revealing, and we ask that tattoos with images that would be deemed offensive or unsuitable are covered up.

Clothes will not display any offensive or political slogans.

## **12. Conduct outside of work**

Staff will not act in a way that would bring the school, or the teaching profession into disrepute.

This covers relevant criminal offences, such as violence or sexual misconduct, as well as negative comments about the school on social media.

## **13. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every two years, but can be revised as needed. It will be ratified by the full governing board.

## **14. Links with other policies**

This policy links with our policies on:

- Staff disciplinary procedures, which will be used if staff breach this code of conduct. It also sets out examples of what we will deem as misconduct and gross misconduct
- Staff grievance procedures
- Safeguarding
- Gifts and hospitality
- E-safety