

# EASTERSIDE ACADEMY

## Code of Conduct for School Staff



At Easterside Academy we believe in creating a whole school culture that is safe and inclusive. This code of conduct sets out eleven key principles for the creation and maintenance of a safe school culture.

### Objectives of a Safe School Culture:

- To safeguard pupils and protect staff.
- To make explicit expectations of performance and conduct.
- To minimise opportunities for abuse.
- For all staff to have confidence to report concerns with full confidentiality.
- To respond promptly to concerns: we always investigate and address issues.
- To exercise appropriate sanctions.
- To Create and maintain an ethos of mutual respect, openness and fairness.

### Our Code of Conduct

#### **1. All staff are expected to follow the Academy's policies: including behaviour; anti-bullying; anti-racism in all interactions in school.**

Pupils and staff are expected to work together to build a school whose relationships are characterised by mutual and appropriate respect. Praise and building on the positive should always come first. Where firmness is called for this should be exercised calmly, and staff should avoid shouting at pupils unless there is a Health and Safety risk. The school behaviour policy and associated documents establish expectations and approved sanctions. All new staff should be issued with a copy of these policies, and any behaviour concerns should be dealt with in line with them. All copies are also available in the staff room and on the network.

Where a member of staff is having difficulties managing pupil behaviour, they should discuss this matter with their Key Stage Leader, the Head Teacher, SENCO or a member of the Care Team at the earliest opportunity.

All staff should set examples of behaviour and conduct which can be copied by pupils. Therefore they should demonstrate the highest standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils to do the same.

#### **2. All staff should be aware of what physical contact with pupils is appropriate.**

Staff should only exercise physical restraint as a last resort to prevent injury. Staff are allowed to comfort a child who is hurt/distressed in a manner appropriate to the age of the child. Holding a child's hand is generally appropriate in Key Stage One. However, adults should not initiate any physical contact unnecessarily, and there should be clear boundaries:

- Children should not be picked up. (Unless medically necessary or being restrained).
- Children should not sit on an adult's laps.
- Adults should avoid being alone in a room with a child where the door is closed. If you need to talk to a child, either leave a door open and position yourself within sight of the door, or ask another adult to be present. Adults

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should be aware of not putting themselves in vulnerable situations, such as when children are changing for PE or swimming.

- If any physical restraint is used (E.g. Team Teach), then these incidents should be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher or Deputy immediately.

### **3. All staff are expected to treat each other with respect.**

Relationships between staff should be characterised by fairness, openness and respect. This means valuing all contributions, acknowledging difference, and working together to build a climate of continuous improvement. Politeness and respect are essential ingredients: where differences occur they should be dealt with calmly and fairly.

### **4. All staff should treat resources responsibly, and exercise due financial care.**

All staff have a responsibility to look after school resources and should do so maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes: not wasting resources unnecessarily (including physical resources and those such as heat/electricity); following the principles of 'reduce, re-use, recycle' where appropriate. All money handles should be clearly labelled and sent as soon as practicable to the school office. Staff handling money frequently need to be aware of the Academy's financial standards for handling money, and are expected to follow these. VAT receipts should be provided for items bought for school use.

Gifts from suppliers or associates of the school must be declared to the Head Teacher, or to the Chair of Governors if the Head Teacher is the recipient, with the exception of 'one off' token gifts from pupils or parents. Personal gifts from individual members of staff to pupils are inappropriate and could be misinterpreted.

### **5. All staff are expected to behave professionally and exercise confidentiality.**

All staff are expected to behave thoughtfully and responsibly. Staff should be punctual and well-prepared, and should carry out tasks to the best of their ability, taking pride in their work. All absence should be genuine. Staff are expected to dress appropriately (See Dress Code Policy). Staff should exercise due confidentiality towards matters that are either discussed or overheard.

Staff are aware of the need to adhere to National Guidelines governing the use of Internet Gaming and Social Networking Sites, to avoid interaction with school age pupils, past or present, and understand the importance of maintaining professionalism on Social Networking sites, where all information is potentially in the public domain and pupils or parents may gain access to information and comments posted. (See also Safeguarding Policy).

Staff must not use their mobile phone as a camera in school. Any photograph/video must be taken using school equipment. Staff must only save images on school computers/laptops. Mobile phones should only be used in school in areas of the school where pupils are not present and not during teaching time. Personal mobile phones should not be used to contact parents unless in an emergency.

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Staff must not engage in conduct outside of work which could seriously damage the reputation and standing of the Academy, or other members of the school community. Any such conduct could lead to dismissal. 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. Staff should seek to establish a good and open relationship with parents, colleagues and external agencies.**

Staff should aim to create a welcoming and open relationship with parents. All parental concerns should be treated seriously and dealt with promptly. The Care Team can support staff here when needed.

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

### **7. All staff need to be aware of policy and procedures for Child Protection.**

It is essential that all staff have regular training in Child Protection issues, and know the procedures for dealing with and reporting concerns. All staff can make a referral and know the procedures to follow in which to do so.

### **8. All staff need to exploit the potential of the curriculum to develop a proactive approach to behaviour and child protection issues.**

Staff need to take a proactive approach towards both child protection and behaviour policies, through the creation of a positive classroom environment where all children are respected, and through PSHCE and circle time in particular.

### **9. All staff need to be aware of how to record/report concerns (whistleblowing).**

Where staff have any concerns about another member of staff, these should be reported immediately to the Head Teacher. Where concern is about the Head Teacher, it should be reported to the Chair of Governors. This number can be sought from the School Business Manager.

All concerns will be investigated thoroughly and confidentially, and appropriate action taken.

### **10. All staff should take care of their physical and mental wellbeing.**

All staff are encouraged to look after their physical and mental wellbeing. This includes maintaining a healthy work-life balance. We take issues of stress very seriously, and look to provide appropriate support and help in these cases.

### **11. All staff have access to counselling and support.**

Staff needing support are encouraged to discuss issues and concerns with the Head Teacher in confidence. Support can be provided both internally (e.g. through the provision of a mentor), or externally through the Occupational Health Service. Trades

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Unions also provide help, support and advice for their members, and membership of a trades union is strongly encouraged.

### Conclusion

By adhering to this code of conduct staff can be assured that they are playing their part in safeguarding pupils and protecting themselves. It is our expectation that all staff should sign a copy of this code of conduct in agreement.

### Aide Memoir for all staff

#### **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 they 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 school, so that parents and children 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 so that we can provide the best possible learning opportunities for the children.
- Work within school policies and practices, so that what we do is consistent with what has been agreed between all members of staff and the governors.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Dress appropriately, so that we set a good example for the children and 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 the children.

**Drawn up and Agreed by Governors: Autumn 2015**

**Agreed by staff member:**

***I agree with the Easterside Academy's Code of Conduct.***

**Signed: ..... Name (please print) .....**