

# St Bernadette Catholic Primary School



## Code of Conduct for Staff

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| <b>Version</b>   | 1.1  |
| <b>Based on Model Policy:</b>                          | HfL Model Code of Conduct for Employees in Schools, issued June 2015 |
| <b>Name/Title of responsible committee/individual:</b> | General Purposes Committee   |
| <b>Date issued:</b>                                    | January 2020   |
| <b>Review frequency:</b>                               | 3 years  |
| <b>Target audience:</b>                                | Staff and governors  |

Our Mission Statement, ***“learning to grow in knowledge, faith and love through friendship with Jesus and Mary”***, underpins all that we do at St Bernadette Catholic Primary School.

The Governing Body shall conduct the School with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

St Bernadette Catholic Primary School is committed to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups. These factors were considered in the formation and review of this policy and will be adhered to in its implementation and application across the whole school community.

The School will promote the Gospel values together with the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Staff and governors will actively challenge pupils, colleagues or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.

| Version | Date         | Notes   |
|---------|--------------|---|
| V1.0    | July 2016    | Approved by   |
| V1.1    | October 2017 | Addition of Deputy DSPs.<br>Removal of Appendix 2: staff declaration combined with core policies annual declaration |
| V1.2    | January 2020 | No changes  |
|         |              |   |

## 1 Introduction

This Code of Conduct applies to all school employees. This Code of Conduct does not form part of any employee's contract of employment.

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 2012' and, in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards – Personal and Professional Conduct.

## 2 Setting an Example

- 2.1 All staff who work in schools set examples of behaviour and conduct which can be copied by pupils/pupils. Staff must therefore for example avoid using inappropriate or offensive language at all times.
- 2.2 All staff must therefore demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils/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; regard should also be given to the disciplinary rules set out in the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
- 2.5 All staff are expected to familiarise themselves and comply with all school policies and procedures.

## 3 Safeguarding Pupils/Pupils

- 3.1 Staff have a duty to safeguard pupils/pupils from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect
- 3.2 The duty to safeguard pupils/pupils includes the duty to report concerns about a pupil/pupil or colleague to the school's Designated Senior Person (DSP) for Child Protection.
- 3.3 **The school's DSPs are Mrs Sandra Lavelle-Murphy and Ms Madeleine Walsh.**  
  
The Deputy DSP is Miss Jodie Howard
- 3.4 All Staff are signposted to copies of the school's Child Protection Policy and Whistleblowing Procedure on the staff server and staff must be familiar with these documents. Hard copies are available in the staff room.
- 3.5 Staff should treat children with respect and dignity and must not seriously demean or undermine pupils, their parents or carers, or colleagues.

- 3.6 Staff should not demonstrate behaviours that may be perceived as sarcasm, making jokes at the expense of pupils, embarrassing or humiliating pupils, discriminating against or favouring pupils.
- 3.7 Staff must take reasonable care of pupils/pupils under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

#### **4 Relationships with pupils**

- 4.1 Staff must declare any relationships that they may have with pupils outside of school; this may include mutual membership of social groups, tutoring, or family connections. Staff should not assume that the school are aware of any such connections. A declaration form may be found in appendix 1 of this document.
- 4.2 Relationships with pupils must be professional at all times, physical relationships with pupils are not permitted and may lead to a criminal conviction.
- 4.3 Contact with pupils must be via school authorised mechanisms. At no time should personal telephone numbers, email addresses or communication routes via personal accounts on social media platforms be used to communicate with pupils.
- 4.4 If contacted by a pupil by an inappropriate route, staff should report the contact to the Headteacher immediately.

#### **5 Pupil Development**

- 5.1 Staff must comply with school policies and procedures that support the well-being and development of pupils.
- 5.2 Staff must co-operate and collaborate with colleagues and with external agencies where necessary to support the development of pupils.
- 5.3 Staff must follow reasonable instructions that support the development of pupils.

#### **6 Honesty and Integrity**

- 6.1 Staff must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes the handling and claiming of money and the use of school property and facilities.
- 6.2 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 for schools. For further information see the school's Anti-Bribery Policy.
- 6.3 Gifts from suppliers or associates of the school must be declared to the Headteacher, with the exception of "one off" token gifts from pupils or parents. Personal gifts from individual members of staff to individual pupils are inappropriate

and could be misinterpreted and may lead to disciplinary action. A record will be kept of all gifts received.

## **7 Conduct outside of Work**

- 7.1 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 community.
- 7.2 In particular, criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable.
- 7.3 Staff may undertake work outside school, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the school nor be to a level which may contravene the working time regulations or affect an individual's work performance in the school.

## **8 E-Safety and Internet Use**

- 8.1 Staff must exercise caution when using information technology and be aware of the risks to themselves and others. Regard should be given to the school's E-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use Policy at all times both inside and outside of work.
- 8.2 Staff must not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, the school, school community or employer into disrepute. Staff should ensure that they adopt suitably high security settings on any personal profiles they may have.
- 8.3 Staff should exercise caution in their use of all social media or any other web based presence that they may have, including written content, videos or photographs, and views expressed either directly or by 'liking' certain pages or posts established by others. This may also include the use of dating websites where staff could encounter pupils either with their own profile or acting covertly.
- 8.4 Contact with pupils should only made via the use of school email accounts or telephone equipment when appropriate.
- 8.5 Photographs/stills or video footage of pupils should only be taken using school equipment, for purposes authorised by the school. Any such use should always be transparent and only occur where parental consent has been given. The resultant files from such recording or taking of photographs must be stored in accordance with the school's procedures on school equipment.

## **8 Confidentiality**

- 8.1 Where staff have access to confidential information about pupils/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 pupil/pupil.
- 8.2 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/pupil (or by a member of staff), this needs to be reported and dealt with in accordance with the appropriate school procedure. It must not be discussed outside 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 authority to deal with the matter.
- 8.3 However, staff have an obligation to share with their manager or the school's Designated Senior Person 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/pupil.

## **9 Dress and Appearance**

- 9.1 All staff must dress in a manner that is appropriate to a professional role and promoting a professional image

- 9.2 Staff should dress in a manner that is not offensive, revealing or sexually provocative
- 9.3 Staff should dress in a manner that is absent from political or other contentious slogans.

## **10 Disciplinary Action**

Staff should be aware that a failure to comply with the following Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action including but not limited to dismissal.

## **11 Compliance**

All staff must complete a declaration to confirm they have read, understood and agreed to comply with the code of conduct.

## **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

When using any form of ICT, including the Internet, in school and outside school

**For your own protection we advise that you:**

- Ensure all electronic communication with pupils, parents, carers, staff and others is compatible with your professional role and in line with school policies.
- Do not talk about your professional role in any capacity when using social media such as Facebook and You Tube.
- Do not put online any text, image, sound or video that could upset or offend any member of the whole school community or be incompatible with your professional role.
- Use school ICT systems and resources for all school business. This includes your school email address, school mobile phone and school video camera.
- Do not disclose any passwords and ensure that personal data (such as data held on MIS software) is kept secure and used appropriately.
- Only take images of pupils and/or staff for professional purposes, in accordance with school policy and with the knowledge of SLT.
- Do not browse, download, upload or distribute any material that could be considered offensive, illegal or discriminatory.
- Ensure that your online activity, both in school and outside school, will not bring the school or professional role into disrepute.
- Emails should be checked daily, as a minimum on working days or every other day if one day is particularly busy.
- You have a duty to report any eSafety incident which may impact on you, your professionalism or the school.

## Appendix 1

### **Relationships with pupils outside of work declaration**

It is recognised that there may be circumstances whereby employees of the school are known to pupils outside of work. Examples include membership of sports clubs, family connections, or private tutoring.

Staff must declare any relationship outside of school that they may have with pupils.

| <b>Employee Name</b> | <b><i>Pupil Name</i></b> | <b>Relationship</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|                      |                          |                     |
|                      |                          |                     |

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 pupil outside of school I am aware that the following must be adhered to:-

- I do not, at any point, teach the child in question as part of my daily timetable - this is a stipulation of such tutoring
- I emphasise to parents that this is done completely independently of the school
- 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

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

Signed .....

Date .....

**Once completed, signed and dated, please return this form to the Headteacher**