



Garlinge and Parkside Schools and Nurseries Federation

Code of Conduct

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Part A: Policy

1 Policy Statement

The school expects the highest standards of personal and professional conduct from all Employees.

As such the school requires all Employees to act in a manner which reflects the value and ethos of the school.

Employees must ensure that their behaviour and actions are consistent with their position as a role model to pupils and are compatible with working with young people and in a school setting.

Employees must act with integrity, honesty and demonstrate ethical and respectful working practices towards pupils, colleagues, parents / carers and other members of the school community.

All Employees have a responsibility to observe appropriate professional boundaries and act at all times in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of pupils.

Employees must disclose any relevant information which may impact on their job role or suitability to work with young people or in a school setting.

The school requires Employees to adhere to all school policies and observe the highest standards of business and financial practice.

Each Employee has an individual responsibility to act in a manner which upholds the school's interests in providing effective and professional education to pupils and protects its reputation to do the same with confidence in the local community.

Employees are accountable for their actions and conduct and should seek advice from their Line Manager, Head of School or Executive Headteacher if they are not sure of the appropriate action to take.

Employees should be aware that a failure to comply with the following Code of Conduct could result in contemplation of disciplinary action. A serious breach could potentially result in dismissal.

This policy explains the school's expectations with regards to the conduct of Employees in the following areas:

- Professional Conduct
- Safeguarding Pupils
- Use of ICT and Social Media
- Business Conduct

2 Scope

This Policy applies to all current Employees of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and Parkside Community Foundation Primary School.

This Policy should also be adhered to by all other adults working in and on behalf of the school including volunteers, supply and agency workers engaged by the school. It does not include Governors for whom separate arrangements apply.

Reference to the management role of the Executive Headteacher in this policy may include their identified nominee. In the case of the Executive Headteacher this management function is undertaken by the Chair of Governors.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Discipline and Conduct Policy which provides examples of acts which are likely to be regarded as misconduct.

3 Adoption Arrangements and Date

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body of Garlinge and Parkside Primary Schools and Nurseries Federation on 18 March 2025 and supersedes any previous Code of Conduct.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body each three years or earlier if there is a need. This will involve consultation with the recognised unions.

4 Responsibilities of the School

- Explain the provisions of the Code of Conduct to Employees and signpost Employees to other relevant policies, documents and guidelines
- Provide additional advice and guidance to Employees in relation to queries they may have regarding the application of the Code of Conduct
- Coach, support and provide feedback to Employees on their performance in relation to the required standards of conduct
- Take appropriate action at the earliest opportunity to address breaches of the expected standards of conduct

5 Responsibilities of the Employee

- To read, understand and comply with the Code of Conduct at all times (Appendix 1)
- To use this code, alongside other relevant school policies and professional codes, to guide them in their role
- To seek guidance from the Executive Headteacher, Head of School or Line Manager (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them
- To alert the Executive Headteacher (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) at the earliest opportunity where an employee believes they may have acted in a manner which is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and other relevant school policies and professional codes
- To alert the Executive Headteacher (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) or Designated Safeguarding Lead where they believe they or another employee or adult working in or on behalf of the school has acted in a manner which has the potential to constitute any safeguarding concern, including those that may be regarded as 'low level concerns'.

6 Reference to Other Sources of Information

This Code of Conduct is not exhaustive and does not replace the general requirements of the law, common sense and good conduct.

The Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with a number of associated policies relating to conduct which are set out in Appendix 2 of this document.

In addition to this policy, all staff employed under Teachers' Terms and Conditions of Employment have a statutory obligation to adhere to the provisions of the STPCD, the latest 'Teachers' Standards 2012' and in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards - Personal and Professional Conduct.

Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards is referenced at Appendix 3 and can be accessed online via:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/665522/Teachers_standard_information.pdf

All employees must also ensure they have read, understood and comply with the following sections of the current Keeping Children Safe in Education:

- Part 1 – Safeguarding Information for all staff
- Part 4 Section 2 – Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

Further guidance regarding Safeguarding is in Part C of this document.

Staff must also have due regard to other professional codes, policies and guidance which may be relevant to their specific role.

Part B: Professional Conduct

7 General

Employees are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct.

Employees are required to work in a diligent and conscientious manner.

Employees are expected to work to the requirements of their job and are required to respect managerial authority and follow reasonable instructions.

Employees must conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the ethos and values of the school and adhere to school policies and procedures at all times.

Employees should ensure they work their contracted hours and are expected to maintain a high level of attendance and punctuality.

8 Honesty and Integrity

Employees must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work.

Employees are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and must avoid acting in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation or intentions.

During the course of their work Employees should ensure they do not:

- Willfully provide false / misleading information
- Destroy or alter information / records without proper authorisation
- Withhold information or conceal matters which they could reasonably be expected to have disclosed
- Misrepresent the school or their position
- Accept or offer any form of bribe / inducement or engage in any other corrupt working practice.

Should an Employee become aware of any conduct on the part of a colleague which raises concerns regarding health and safety, safeguarding or criminal activity – they have a duty to disclose this.

Allegations concerning fraudulent, dishonest or corrupt practices or the falsification or withholding of information will be investigated under the school's Discipline and Conduct Policy and formal disciplinary action taken where appropriate.

9 Setting an Example

School Employees are role models and must adhere to behaviour that sets a good example to all the pupils within the school and is appropriate in a school setting.

This includes:

- Refraining from abusive or potentially offensive / discriminatory language or actions. (The use of profanity, vulgar expressions, personal insults, violence, harassment for example, will be considered unacceptable)
- Being mindful and sensitive to the customs, practices, culture and personal belief of others
- Playing your part in creating a fair and inclusive work environment where everyone can thrive and do their best work
- Observing boundaries appropriate to their role and a school setting
- Ensuring any topics of conversation with pupils are suitable to the school setting / curriculum
- Not undermining fundamental British values (as defined in KCSIE and the Government's Prevent Strategy as democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect)
- Ensuring personal / political opinions or beliefs do not impact on the discharge of duties and/or are not expressed in a way which exploits pupils' vulnerability or seeks to unduly influence
- Maintaining high standards of personal presentation, attendance and punctuality.

Should Employees be in doubt about the appropriateness of their behaviour they should seek guidance from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher). Breaches of expected behaviour may be considered by implementing the disciplinary procedure, this may result in formal disciplinary sanctions including dismissal.

10 Confidentiality and Privacy

Employees may have access to confidential or sensitive information about pupils, colleagues or the business and operation of the school as part of their job role.

Such information must not be disclosed to any person who is not entitled to have access to this or does not legitimately need it for work purposes.

Specifically, all Employees must:

- Work in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and associated legislation
- Observe the school's procedures for the release of information to other agencies and members of the public
- Not use or share confidential information inappropriately or for personal gain
- Not speak inappropriately about the school community, pupils, parents, staff or governors including discussing incidents, operational or employment matters with parents / members of the public
- Ensure all confidential and private data is kept secure including password protection where possible.

Should Employees be in doubt about the appropriateness of sharing information they should seek guidance from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

11 Working Relationships & Relationships with other Stakeholders / Community

The school expects Employees to maintain positive and professional working relationships. Colleagues, pupils, parents and other stakeholders should be treated with dignity and respect.

Employees should be polite and courteous in their interactions with parents / pupils and other stakeholders / members of the school community.

Behaviour which constitutes bullying and harassment, intimidation, victimisation, discrimination or abuse of authority will not be tolerated and may be addressed by implementing the school's bullying and harassment policy and / or the disciplinary policy. This includes physical and verbal abuse and use of inappropriate language (for example the use of profanity, vulgar expressions) or unprofessional behaviour (for example, being rude or hostile) with colleagues, pupils and parents.

Employees should treat all stakeholders in a fair and equitable way and not behave in a manner which may demean, distress, offend or discriminate against others.

Employees should ensure that policies relating to equality issues are complied with.

Employees should be aware of the school's Complaint Procedure and address any concerns from parents / pupils and other stakeholders in accordance with this document.

12 Conduct Outside of the Workplace

The school recognises that Employees are entitled to their private lives. In general, the choices and actions of employees outside of their job role are not the school's concern. However, in order to protect all parties, there are exceptions to this.

All Employees working in the School Community must be mindful that they have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their own and the school's 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.

In this regard Employees must not engage in conduct outside of work which has the potential to:

- Affect or is likely to affect the suitability of the Employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting
- Impact on the operation or reputation or standing of the school
- Impact on the operation or reputation of the school's relationship with its staff, parents, pupils or other stakeholders
- Seriously undermine the trust and confidence that the school has in the Employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting.

In particular, criminal offences that involve violence, hate crime or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable.

Concerns related to an Employee's actions or inactions outside of work will be reasonably considered in light of the Employee's job role, and the potential impact of the Employee's suitability to do their job within the context of the School Community. If relevant, formal action may be considered following the implementation of the school's disciplinary procedure. Depending on the seriousness of any established concerns dismissal may be a potential outcome.

13 Duty to Disclose

All Employees have a duty to immediately disclose to the Executive Headteacher (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) prior to the start of their employment, at the start of their employment or during the course of their employment, any change in their circumstances or any information which may affect or is likely to affect the suitability of the Employee to undertake their job role or work with children/ young people or in a school setting.

This includes, but is not restricted to:

- the Employee being subject to any police investigation / enquiry, arrest, ban, charge, caution, reprimand, warning, fine or pending prosecution or criminal conviction. This includes any actions committed overseas which would be subject to a police investigation or formal action if such actions had been committed in any part of the United Kingdom
- the Employee being subject to any referral, made to, or any investigation, proceedings, or prohibition order being undertaken by, the Teaching Regulation Agency, General Teaching Council for Scotland, or the Education Workforce Council in Wales
- the Employee being subject to the inclusion on the DBS Children's Barred List and any change in DBS status during employment, or any referral made to, or any investigation or proceedings being undertaken by, the DBS
- the Employee being subject to any referral made to, or any investigation, proceedings, or prohibition order being undertaken by, any other regulatory or professional authorities or actions of other agencies relating to child protection and/or safeguarding concerns
- the Employee being subject to any orders made in relation to the care of children, the refusal or cancellation of registration relating to childcare, or children's homes, or being prohibited from private fostering
- the Employee being subject to any 'live' disciplinary process, formal sanction or any other relevant information arising from a previous or current secondary employment / voluntary work which may impact on the Employee's suitability to undertake their role or work with children/young people or in a school setting. This includes substantiated safeguarding allegations
- the Employee's close personal relationships outside of the workplace presenting a 'risk by association' to the safeguarding of children / young people.

This list is not exhaustive. Should an Employee be unclear about whether it is appropriate to disclose a matter they are encouraged to seek guidance from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) at the earliest opportunity.

The school acknowledges the obligation to disclose protected convictions and cautions is governed by the requirements of the Rehabilitation of Offences Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013).

Prospective employees should be aware that when applying for particular jobs and activities, certain convictions and cautions are considered 'protected'. This means that they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account.

Employees are advised that guidance about whether a conviction or caution should be disclosed can be found here: [Check if you need to tell someone about your criminal record: What information you need to give - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/check-if-you-need-to-tell-someone-about-your-criminal-record-what-information-you-need-to-give)

Employees must also report any current or historical information in the public domain, or which is likely to come into the public domain, which may be of relevance to their job role or their suitability to work with children/young people or in a school setting or matters which may be subject to adverse media attention or have a detrimental impact on the reputation of the school.

Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009

In addition, in the case of individuals who work with, or manage the education of, early years pupils (under the age of five) during school hours, and children up to the age of eight in relation to activities outside of the school day (for example breakfast or after school club employees), the following legislative provisions also apply.

In accordance with the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (Section 75 of the Childcare Act 2006) an Employee should immediately disclose to the Executive Headteacher (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) if, at any point during their employment, they:

- Are disqualified from providing childcare provision or being involved in the management of such provision, including where any application for an Ofsted waiver from disqualification has been made, regardless of whether such an application was successful.

Such Employees also have a duty to ensure that they are fully aware of their obligations and will be asked by the school to confirm that they understand and comply with these provisions.

Further guidance relating to an Employee's obligations under the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 including details of the relevant offences which must be disclosed to the school is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>

Employees should seek clarification from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher) if they are unclear whether they are required to disclose certain information under this provision.

How the school will respond to Employee disclosures

Disclosures will be handled sensitively and discretely, and with regard to data protection considerations.

The Executive Headteacher will consider carefully any disclosure which is made and the appropriate response.

This may result in a suspension from duties while an investigation / risk assessment takes place or Ofsted waiver application made (where applicable). Suspension is not a sanction in itself and does not represent any prejudgement of the outcome of the response to the disclosure.

In instances where the information disclosed constitutes a risk to the safeguarding of children / young people or is incompatible with an Employee's job role or their suitability to work with children/young people in a school setting, termination of employment may be considered, following due process.

Any failure to disclose any information required in the course of employment or any other information that may have a bearing on an individual's suitability to carry out their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting may be considered by implementing the disciplinary procedure, this may result in formal disciplinary sanctions including dismissal.

14 Secondary Employment

Employees should ensure that any external paid or unpaid work does not conflict with their duty to the school or pose a potential to damage the Employee's own or the educational settings reputation with the context of their job role and seniority.

Employees should inform the Executive Headteacher and obtain their consent before taking up additional paid / unpaid employment or engaging in any other business.

Requests will not be unreasonably refused providing that:

- It does not affect or is unlikely to affect the suitability of the Employee to undertake their job role or work with children/young people or in a school setting
- There is no detrimental impact on an Employee's work performance or their own or others' health and safety
- Privileged or confidential information is not shared
- Work is undertaken outside of the school and contracted hours of work
- The activity is not in direct competition with those of the school.

It is an Employee's responsibility to monitor the hours they work and ensure they are rested and refreshed to be able to carry out their role. An average working week of 48 hours across all employments should not normally be exceeded unless the Employee has elected to opt out of the Working Time Regulations.

15 Dress and Presentation

An individual's dress and appearance is a matter of personal choice. However, all Employees must ensure their dress, personal appearance and standard of personal hygiene is appropriate to the nature of their role in the school, suitable for a school setting and promotes a professional image. Employees should be mindful of setting a good example to both pupils and visitors.

Dress should be appropriate to the activities an Employee is engaged in consideration given to related health and safety requirements, such as:

- Sportswear being worn on days when sports/PE activities are planned

- Sensible footwear
- Minimal jewellery

Employees should not dress in a manner that is potentially offensive, revealing or sexually provocative. The school does not provide a list of acceptable clothing as this would be far too long. However, without restricting individual preferences too much, the school has provided a list of unacceptable clothing:

- Any item that is too revealing (exposing your back, chest, navel or underwear)
- Transparent clothing
- Tops with spaghetti straps or halter necks
- Denim
- Items that feature slogans or offensive language
- Flip flops

Please note this list is not exhaustive. Employees will be expected to use their own judgement when interpreting the school's dress code. If Employees have any concerns regarding what is acceptable or unacceptable, they should seek guidance from their Line Manager or Head of School.

Suitable protective equipment must be worn where provided and appropriate. Uniforms should be worn where provided.

Employees should wear their identity badges at all times whilst in the workplace.

Employees should dress in a manner that is absent from political or other contentious slogans.

Employees may be asked to cover a visible tattoo where it is deemed inappropriate and/or offensive for a school setting (for example if the subject is discriminatory, violent or contentious). Body piercings should not be exposed with the exception of facial piercings such as ear studs, nose studs etc. The Employee should consider any health and safety risks when wearing jewellery in the workplace. Any jewellery worn is at the risk of the Employee. The school cannot be held responsible for any injury to an Employee caused by wearing jewellery or any loss or damage to items of jewellery. These requirements only apply whilst the Employee is in the workplace or carrying out work on behalf of the school.

The school recognises the diversity of cultures and religions of its Employees and will take a sensitive approach where this affects dress and uniform requirements.

Employees will be advised by the Executive Headteacher of any flexibilities which may be appropriate in dress code for specific activities or events, for example for school trips and INSET days or in the case of unusually hot/cold weather.

Employees are encouraged to make the Executive Headteacher aware at the earliest opportunity of any circumstances which may have the potential to cause difficulties in following the dress code (for example religious, medical/disability related reasons or should they be transitioning) to enable appropriate flexibilities to be discussed and agreed.

16 Smoking and the use of drugs and alcohol

The school is a non- smoking environment. Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes or “vaping” is not allowed on school premises or during working time. Staff should also refrain from smoking immediately outside of the school entrances.

Employees must not consume alcohol or use illegal drugs in the workplace or be under the influence of such substances whilst at work. This includes the use of 'legal highs' or psychoactive substances.

Employees must ensure that any use of alcohol / illegal drugs outside of work does not adversely affect their work performance, attendance, conduct, working relationships, health and safety of themselves and others or damage the school's image and reputation. Employees are expected to behave in a manner which would not lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or act as a role model. For example, presenting for work with clothing or breath smelling of alcohol or drugs is likely to raise reputational concerns.

If an Employee has a drug or alcohol dependency which is impacting on their work or has the potential to impact on their work, they should discuss this with the Executive Headteacher or Head of School. Where an Employee engages with the school regarding addressing their dependency, consideration will be given on how to best to support the employee. External advice may be sought prior to or during the implementation of the school's disciplinary procedure where conduct issues arise due to alcohol or drug use.

17 Health and Safety at Work

All Employees must, by law, take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace.

Employees are required to comply with the school's Health and Safety policy and agreed procedures at all times.

This includes:

- avoiding risk of injury or danger to yourself or others
- using any protective clothing and equipment supplied
- complying with hygiene requirements
- reporting, at the earliest opportunity, any hazards, defects, accidents or incidents to the Executive Headteacher or other designated person
- not interfering with, or misusing, anything provided for health, safety or welfare
- informing the school of any medical condition or medication which has been prescribed which may have an impact on health and safety in the workplace.

Employees with specific additional responsibilities and those in managerial roles should also be aware of and comply with any additional health and safety obligations associated with their role.

Employees should inform their manager if they have a medical condition or are taking prescription medication which may impair their work performance or affect their health and safety or that of others.

18 Contact with the Media

All enquiries from the media should be directed to the Executive Headteacher.

Employees should not make contact with or comment to the media about matters relating to the school without the prior approval of the Executive Headteacher.

Employees should speak to the Executive Headteacher in the first instance about any concerns they have regarding their own employment or operation of the school and / or may refer to the school's whistleblowing or grievance policies if they wish to raise a formal complaint.

Should an Employee speak directly to the media about non-school matters care should be taken to ensure that it is clear that any opinions expressed are personal and that the individual is not acting on behalf of / representing the school.

Any contact with the media in a personal capacity should be compatible with the Employee's role and their position working with children / young people or in a school setting and must not negatively impact on the reputation of the school.

19 Whistleblowing

Employees may raise concerns about any aspect of the operation of the school which is not directly related to their own employment through the Whistleblowing Policy.

Employees raising a concern with reasonable grounds for doing so will not be subject to discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

20 Misconduct

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in further action being taken, as set out in the school's Discipline and Conduct Policy and Procedure.

Employees should ensure they are familiar with the type of conduct which may be regarded as a breach of school rules.

Examples of behaviours which are likely to be regarded to constitute misconduct are set out in the Appendix to the school's Discipline and Conduct Policy and Procedure. Allegations of misconduct will be managed in accordance with the school's Discipline and Conduct Policy and Procedure

Part C: Safeguarding Pupils and Students

21 General Obligations

It is essential that everybody working in a school understands their safeguarding responsibilities.

All Employees have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard pupils from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect
- Promote the welfare of pupils and provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- Identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm
- Report as soon as possible and without delay any concerns regarding child protection and/or safeguarding to the Executive Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Chair of Governors where concerns relate to the Executive Headteacher).

All Employees must ensure they have read, understood and comply with:

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- KCSIE Section two – Concerns which do not meet the harm threshold
- KCSIE is attached at Appendix 4 or via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- The school's Safeguarding Policy
- The school's Child Protection Policy
- The school's Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- Additionally, Employees with managerial responsibilities must ensure they comply with the school's procedure for Managing Allegations Against Staff, Managing Allegations Against Staff practice guidance and Parts 2-4 of KCSIE

Employees must attend and comply with any training as required by the school associated with the safeguarding of pupils.

22 Appropriate relationships with pupils

Employees must maintain appropriate professional boundaries with pupils.

Employees are expected to act in an open and transparent way that would not lead any reasonable person to suspect their actions or intent. In order to protect both children and themselves, Employees should also avoid behaviour that might be misinterpreted by others. Where concerns are raised appropriate fact finding will be undertaken before considering whether further formal action is warranted under the school's disciplinary procedure.

23 Allegations against Members of Staff and Volunteers

All Employees have a duty to report to the Executive Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity the conduct of a colleague who may have breached the 'harm threshold' as defined by KCSIE in that they have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children and/or;
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Employees are advised to self-report where they themselves believe they may have acted in a manner which breaches these harm thresholds.

Failure to report such concerns may be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

Where the concerns relate to the Executive Headteacher these should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

24 Guidance for Safer Working Practice

Employees are required to read, understand and comply with the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with Children and Young People in Education Settings.

This guidance is referenced at Appendix 5.

This document explains the school's specific expectations with regard to safeguarding pupils and contains practical guidance on behaviours which constitute safe working practice.

Employees should seek immediate guidance from their Executive Headteacher, Head of School or Line Manager if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.

25 Other Safeguarding Considerations

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm and how to deal with these accordingly. These include:

- Child on Child abuse – including bullying (cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Sexual violence and harassment – abuse of intimate relationships, physical abuse, sexual abuse and harassment, non-consensual sexual activity/sharing of images, upskirting and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Domestic Abuse – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse
- Mental Health – including the impact of suffering abuse or neglect
- Radicalisation – including the Prevent agenda
- Serious Violence – including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honour-based abuse and forced marriage.

Employees are guided to refer to the current edition of KCSIE for further information.

Part D: ICT and Social Media

26 General Obligations

Employees should ensure that they have read, understand and comply with the school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy at all times (attached at Appendix 6).

Whilst at work or using a work device all Employees must:

- Ensure all electronic communication with pupils, parents and carers, colleagues and other stakeholders is compatible with their professional role, appropriate boundaries and in line with school policies.
- Not use work IT equipment to browse, create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material / images which is illegal, sexually explicit, obscene or could offend, harass or upset others or anything which could bring an Employee's professional role, the school or Local Authority into disrepute.
- Not use personal IT equipment to browse, create, transmit, display, publish or forward any materials / images which are illegal or could offend or harass others or anything which could bring an Employee's professional role, the school or local authority into disrepute.
- Ensure that the school ICT system security is respected and password protocols are observed – including the use of strong passwords and encryption.
- Not install personal software on school equipment or make unauthorised copies of school registered software.

Limited use of school internet, email and ICT equipment for personal purposes is permitted, provided this is within the scope of the school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy and does not impact on an individual's job role.

Access to gaming, gambling, social networking sites or internet chatrooms from school devices is not permitted.

Employees should seek guidance from their Executive Headteacher, Head of School or Line Manager if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.

Breaches of expected use of ICT may be considered by implementing the disciplinary procedure, this may result in formal disciplinary sanctions including dismissal.

27 Use of Social Media

Employees must ensure that their online presence / profile is compatible with their professional role. Employees are entitled to their private life, but should be mindful that their online presence can be subject to public scrutiny. It is important that the wider community are confident that pupils are being educated by individuals who act in a professional and responsible manner online.

All Employees should:

- Ensure appropriate privacy settings are applied when using social media sites
- Refrain from sharing confidential and privileged information, discussing incidents, operational or employment matters or making critical or negative comments about the school, pupils, parents or colleagues on such forums
- Not browse, create, transmit, display, publish, comment on or forward any material / images which is illegal, could offend or harass or anything which could bring an Employee's professional role, the school or Local Authority into disrepute. For example, expressing controversial views related to protected characteristics such, as race, sex, disability, age or gender reassignment would be unacceptable
- Never share or post images of pupils
- Not post images of work colleagues without permission
- Not access or update social media sites using school devices during working time.

Employees should not make contact with pupils or parents via social media accounts or have these individuals as social media 'friends' or 'contacts'. It is also recommended that Employees do not have ex-pupils or their families as social media 'friends'.

Employees at schools can often have more complex relationships than just being a member of staff or a parent. As examples, staff can also be parents (of pupils at the school), in relationships or have friendships with other staff or parents; or also governors. Staff are advised to report any existing social media relationships to the Executive Headteacher or Head of School for their own protection.

Employees should seek guidance from their Executive Headteacher, Head of School or Line Manager if they are unclear about the conduct or actions expected of them.

28 Use of Personal Mobile Phones / Devices

Employees are not permitted to make or receive personal calls or texts, send or receive emails or access the internet or social media during work time where children are present.

Employees should ensure that mobile devices are silent at all times whilst in the classroom or where children are present. Mobile devices should not be left on display.

Employees should not use their personal equipment (mobile phones, cameras, tablets) to take photos or make recordings of pupils.

29 Monitoring of Usage

Emails, documents or browsing history on school systems should not be considered to be private and may be monitored and recorded to ensure the safety of pupils and ensure compliance with this policy. This monitoring will be proportionate and will take place in accordance with data protection and privacy legislation.

The School may address concerns regarding unauthorised, unacceptable or inappropriate use of ICT systems, devices or social media by implementing the disciplinary procedure, this may result in formal disciplinary sanctions including dismissal.

Part E: Business Conduct

30 Use of Financial Resources

The school requires Employees to observe the highest standards of business and financial practice.

Employees should ensure that school public funds with which they are entrusted are used in a responsible and lawful manner.

Employees must comply with the school's stipulated financial regulations and any other relevant policies and audit requirements.

Appropriate authorisation should be sought for any expenditure and an audit trail and suitable records kept.

School monies, credit cards and accounts should not be used for personal purposes.

The use of personal credit cards and accounts to purchase goods and services on behalf of the school should be avoided unless prior agreement from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School is obtained.

All expense claims for travel and subsistence should be appropriately authorised and accompanied by receipts or proof of purchase.

Personal loyalty cards should not be used when making purchases on behalf of the school.

31 Personal Use of Equipment and Resources

Employees may not make personal use of the school's property, materials or facilities unless authorised to do so by the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

32 Declaration of Interests

The school recognises that Employees may wish to take an active role in the local community and undertake additional personal or business activities outside of work.

In the majority of instances such activities will have no impact on their role in school. However, on occasion there may be a potential conflict of interest.

Employees should therefore declare annually to the Executive Headteacher any financial or non-financial interests which may conflict with those of the School. Employees should also declare membership of any professional bodies or organisations which may conflict with their School role.

Should Employees be in doubt about whether a conflict of interest may exist they should seek guidance from the Executive Headteacher or Head of School (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher).

33 Contracting out of Services

Employees should follow agreed school protocols for the award of contracts to external providers.

Employees should adhere to school rules regarding the separation of roles in procurement and the tendering process.

In particular, care should be taken to ensure competition between prospective contractors is fair and open and that all competing parties are treated equally.

Employees should ensure that preferential treatment is not shown to current or former Employees or partners, close relatives or friends and associates in the award of contracts.

Employees must not accept any form of financial or other inducement which may be offered by a potential contractor. All such approaches should be reported to the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

Confidential information relating to the tendering process, must not be disclosed to any unauthorised party or organisation.

34 Gifts and Hospitality

Employees should not accept significant gifts from parents and carers, pupils, actual or potential contractors or outside suppliers which could compromise the individual or the school.

Employees should notify the Executive Headteacher or Head of School should they receive any unsolicited gifts and return the item with a polite refusal letter to the sender. A record should be kept of all gifts which are received.

Small tokens of appreciation which have no substantial financial value (less than £25) such as presents from pupils at the end of term may be accepted and do not have to be declared.

Employees may only accept an offer of hospitality if there is a genuine need to do so in order to represent the school in the community. Employees should discuss any invitations with the Executive Headteacher or Head of School (or Chair of Governors in the case of the Executive Headteacher).

Where the school receives sponsorship of a school activity or event, care should be taken to ensure that this does not infer that the sponsor will receive preferential treatment in any future contracting or tendering process. An Employee or their partner, family member or friend may not benefit from the sponsorship.

35 Personal Relationships at Work

Employees must not allow a personal relationship with a colleague, parent, Governor or member of the wider school community to influence their conduct at work or have a detrimental impact on the operation of the school.

Employees who are in a personal relationship should behave in an appropriate and professional manner during working time. A personal relationship must not:

- advantage or disadvantage the parties in the relationship
- give rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest
- impact adversely on other members of the school community
- lead to a breach in confidentiality
- breach standards of professional behavior or conduct in the workplace

A personal relationship may be defined as:

- A family relationship
- A romantic / sexual relationship
- A close personal friendship outside of work
- A business, commercial or financial relationship

Employees are expected to disclose to the Executive Headteacher where a personal relationship exists or develops with a parent of a pupil or where there is a pre-existing family connection or friendship with a pupil and / or their family. There will be no requirement to give a detailed account of the involvement. Where an individual is employed in a school in which their child or family member is a pupil, they should ensure that appropriate professional boundaries are maintained. In these circumstances Employees should follow the same rules expected of other parents including raising any concerns using the appropriate parental procedures. Employees who are parents should also exercise appropriate professionalism with regards to access to confidential pupil information.

Employees are expected to disclose to the Executive Headteacher any close personal relationship with a colleague / Governor. There will not be a requirement to give a detailed account of the involvement.

Where a personal relationship exists or develops between members of staff where one party is in a supervisory relationship they must not be involved in the recruitment, appraisal, promotion, pay determination, authorisation of expenses/overtime, provision of an employment reference on behalf of the school or any other management decision involving the other party.

In the case of the Executive Headteacher any disclosures should be made to the Chair of Governors.

36 Political Activity

Employees must not allow their own personal, political, religious or other views and opinions to interfere with their work. They are expected to be neutral in their views in the course of their work at the school and to present a balanced view when working with pupils.

Employees may engage in political activity outside of work however they should not allow personal or political views to interfere with their duties. Any activity should be compatible with the Employee's responsibility as a role model to pupils.

Where an Employee is involved in political activity outside of work care must be taken to ensure that it is clear that any opinions expressed are personal and that the individual is not acting on behalf of or representing the school.

37 Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property created by an Employee during the course of their employment and for the purposes of their employment will be considered the property of the school, unless specific permission is granted to the Employee to have ownership of such materials.

Appendix 1: Code of Conduct – Confirmation of Compliance

Please sign the declaration below and return this to the HR office:

I hereby confirm that I have read, understood and agree to comply with the provisions of the school's Code of Conduct.

Should I have any queries about any aspect of the code or am unclear of the school's expectations I will discuss these with the Executive Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.

Name:

Job Title:

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 2: List of Relevant Policies

- Complaints Procedure
- Data Protection Policy
- Discipline and Conduct Policy and Procedure
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure

Appendix 3: Teachers' Standards – Part 2

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards;>

Appendix 4: Keeping Children Safe in Education – Part 1

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2;>

Appendix 5: Guidance for Safer Working Practice

[Guidance for safe working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings](#)

Appendix 6: ICT Acceptable Use Policy

Staff Acceptable Use Policy

As a professional organisation with responsibility for children's safeguarding it is important that all staff take all possible and necessary measures to protect data and information systems from infection, unauthorised access, damage, loss, abuse and theft. All members of staff have a responsibility to use the school's computer system in a professional, lawful, and ethical manner. To ensure that members of staff are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when using Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the school systems, they are asked to read and sign this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

This is not an exhaustive list and all members of staff are reminded that ICT use should be consistent with the school ethos, other appropriate school policies, relevant national and local guidance and expectations, and the Law.

1. I understand that Information Systems and ICT include networks, data and data storage, online and offline communication technologies and access devices. Examples include laptops, mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, email and social media sites.
2. School owned information systems must be used appropriately. I understand that the Computer Misuse Act 1990 makes the following criminal offences: to gain unauthorised access to computer material; to gain unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences or to modify computer material without authorisation.
3. I understand that any hardware and software provided by my workplace for staff use can only be used by members of staff and only for educational use. To prevent unauthorised access to systems or personal data, I will not leave any information system unattended without first logging out or locking my login as appropriate.
4. I will respect system security and I will not disclose any password or security information. I will use a 'strong' password (a strong password has a minimum of 7 characters, it must contain an upper case, a lower case and a special character and will expire after 95 days).
5. I will not attempt to install any purchased or downloaded software, including browser toolbars, or hardware without permission from the system manager.
6. I will ensure that any personal data of pupils, staff or parents/carers is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). This means that all personal data will be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully, only kept for specific purposes, held no longer than necessary and will be kept private and secure with appropriate security measures in place, whether used in the workplace, hosted online (only within countries or sites with suitable data protection controls that meet the EU and UK regulations) or accessed remotely (e.g. via VPN). Any data which is being removed from the school site (such as via email or on memory sticks or CDs) will be encrypted by a method approved by the school. Any images or videos of pupils will only be used as stated in the school image use policy and will always take into account parental consent.

7. I will not keep or access professional documents which contain school-related sensitive or personal information (including images, files, videos, emails etc.) on any personal devices (such as laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones), unless they are suitably secured and encrypted. I will protect the devices in my care from unapproved access or theft.
8. I will not store any personal information on the school computer system including any school laptop or similar device issued to members of staff that is unrelated to school activities, such as personal photographs, files or financial information.
9. I will respect copyright and intellectual property rights.
10. I have read and understood the school online safety (e-Safety) policy which covers the requirements for safe ICT use, including using appropriate devices, safe use of social media websites and the supervision of pupils within the classroom and other working spaces.
11. I will report all incidents of concern regarding children's online safety to a Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), or the Online Safety Coordinator as soon as possible. I will report any accidental access, receipt of inappropriate materials, filtering breaches or unsuitable websites to the DSL and the Online Safety Coordinator as soon as possible.
12. I will not attempt to bypass any filtering or security systems put in place by the school. If I suspect a computer or system has been damaged or affected by a virus or other malware, or if I have lost any school related documents or files, then I will report this to the GDPR Lead, Lynda Newing, business@garlinge.kent.sch.uk and contact the ICT Support Provider, Cantium Business Solutions on 03000 658 888 as soon as possible.
13. My electronic communications with pupils, parents/carers and other professionals will only take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and will be transparent and open to scrutiny at all times. All communication will take place via school approved communication channels e.g. via a school provided email address or telephone number and not via personal devices or communication channels e.g. personal email, social networking or mobile phones. Any pre-existing relationships or situations that may compromise this will be discussed with the SLT.
14. I will ensure that my online reputation and use of ICT and information systems are compatible with my professional role, whether using school or personal systems. This includes the use of email, text, social media/networking and gaming and any other devices or websites. I will take appropriate steps to protect myself online and will ensure that my use of ICT and internet will not undermine my professional role, interfere with my work duties and will be in accordance with the school AUP and the Law.
15. I will not create, transmit, display, publish or forward any material that is likely to harass, cause offence, inconvenience or needless anxiety to any other person, or anything which could bring my professional role, the school, or the County Council, into disrepute.
16. I will promote online safety with the pupils in my care and will help them to develop a responsible attitude to safety online, system use and to the content they access or create.
17. If I have any queries or questions regarding safe and professional practice online either in school or off site, then I will raise them with the SLT or the Online Safety Coordinator.
18. I understand the school has high expectations regarding safe practice relating to the use of technology within school as set out below:

- To model safe and responsible use of technology
- Users are responsible for the care and safe-keeping of any ICT equipment immediately reporting any faults to our ICT Support provider (Cantium Business Solutions)
- Liquids and food must be kept away from any ICT equipment to prevent health and safety hazards relating to electrical equipment
- Portable equipment (ie tablets and iPads) must be kept securely locked away when not in use
- Users are not permitted to download and install licensed or unlicensed software packages on any machines
- Users are responsible for day to day management of their data ensuring unwanted material is deleted
- To protect data and keep access to digital information secure and when leaving any machine to lock the screen or log out

19. I understand that my use of the school information systems (including any devices provided by the school), school Internet and school email may be monitored and recorded to ensure the safety of children and staff and to ensure policy compliance. This monitoring will be proportionate and will take place in accordance with data protection, privacy and human rights legislation.

The school may exercise its right to monitor the use of information systems, including Internet access and the interception of emails in order to monitor policy compliance. Where it believes unauthorised and/or inappropriate use of the school's information system or unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour may be taking place, the school will invoke its disciplinary procedure. If the school suspects that the school system may be being used for criminal purposes then the matter will be brought to the attention of the relevant law enforcement organisation.