Busbridge CE Junior School

Safeguarding Children and Young People
Safe Working Practice Agreement for Staff (Sept 2021)

Busbridge CE Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that pupils are cared for appropriately and safeguarded from any harm, and they have a duty of care to promote the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

The staff code of conduct gives clarity to the measures needed to ensure that all employees and pupils can work within and enjoy being part of a safe and caring environment.

It is acknowledged that the vast majority of employees behave appropriately whilst working with our pupils. Whilst it is recognised that the individual members of an organisation may hold differing values and opinions, adults working in a school are in a position of trust and their conduct is, therefore, governed by specific laws and guidance and the policies and procedures agreed by the Headteacher and governing body.

Staff occasionally express uncertainty as to what is and is not acceptable and seek guidance regarding those behaviours which, whilst most probably innocent, may be perceived by others as inappropriate**.

The following is, therefore, a code of appropriate conduct for all adults working in or on behalf of the school, including those involved in home visits or any out of school activities. Adherence to this code should ensure that both children and adults are safe from misconduct or unfounded allegations of misconduct.

You should always:

- Adhere to all school policies, many of which are specifically written with safeguarding in mind for example: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Behaviour, Physical Intervention, Anti Bullying, Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, Use of Images (photography and DVD), Disability Discrimination, E- safety.
- Behave in a mature, respectful, safe, fair and considered manner at all times.
- Provide a good example and 'positive role model' to the pupils.
- Observe other people's right to confidentiality (Unless you need to report something to the Headteacher or DSL e.g. concerns about a child protection issue).
- Treat all children equally; never confer favour on particular children, or build 'special relationships' with individual children, except where one to one working is part of a plan agreed with your manager (eg for counselling, tuition, mentoring or other purpose).

Report to the Headteacher (or, in the case of an allegation concerning the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors), as soon as possible:

- Any behaviour or situation which may give rise to complaint, misunderstanding or misinterpretation against yourself.
- Any difficulties that you are experiencing, for example, coping with a child presenting particularly challenging behaviour; situations where you anticipate that you may not be sufficiently qualified, trained or experienced to deal with or handle appropriately.
- Any behaviours of another adult in the school which give you cause for concern or breach this code of conduct or other school policies and procedures.

You should never:

- **Behave in a manner that could lead a reasonable person to question your conduct, intentions or suitability to care for other people's children**.
- Touch children in a manner which is or may be considered sexual, threatening, gratuitous or intimidating.
- Discriminate either favourably or unfavourably towards any child.
- Give personal contact details, text email or telephone except for agreed work purposes using work IT, or make arrangements to contact, communicate or meet children outside of work.
- Develop 'personal' or sexual relationships with children.
- Push, hit, kick, punch, slap, throw missiles at or smack a child or threaten to do so
- Be sarcastic, embarrass or humiliate, make remarks or "jokes" to children of a personal, racist, discriminatory, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate** or offensive nature
- Give or receive gifts (other than 'token').
- Allow, encourage or condone children to act in an illegal, improper or unsafe manner e.g. smoking or drinking alcohol.
- Behave in an illegal or unsafe manner, for example, exceeding the speed limit, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving a vehicle which is known to be un-roadworthy or otherwise unsafe or not having appropriate insurance, using a mobile phone whilst driving, fail to use seatbelts and drive in a safe manner at all time whilst transporting children.
- Undertake any work with children when you are not in a fit and proper physical or emotional state to do so. For example: under the influence of medication which induces drowsiness; with a medical condition which dictates that you should not be caring for children; under extreme stress which is likely to impair your judgement.

**** Please note:**

It is the perception of the person subject to a remark or action rather than your stated intention that defines 'appropriate' or 'inappropriate'.

Action required:

All staff are required to sign a central register held by the School Office to confirm that they have read and understood this document **and the following documents/policies:**

DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education (current - Sept 2021) part 1
Child Protection & Safeguarding policy (current)
Staff Behaviour Policy / Code of Conduct (current)
What To Do If You're Worried a Child is Being Abused (current - March 2015)
E-Safety Policy (current)
ICT Code of Conduct (current)
Whistleblowing Policy (Sept 2021)

These can all be found in Staff Share / Policies 2021-2022