

**MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY
MARCH 2018**



**MARLBOROUGH
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Date of Policy Review:	Reviewer:	Date Ratified by Governors:	Date Shared with Staff:	Date of Next Review:
March 2018	M. Roberts D. Byron	March 2018	March 2018	March 2019

Article 3: *The best interests of the child must be a top priority of all actions concerning children.*

Article 28: *Children have a right to a good quality education*

Article 29: *Children have the right to an education which develops their interests, talents and abilities*

Article 19: *Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated, in body or mind*

Rights Respecting Schools

As a Rights-Respecting School, we use children’s rights to underpin everything we do and learn. Marlborough Primary School has been working closely with [UNICEF](#), and is a 'Rights Respecting' School. The term is bestowed on those schools who, in the eyes of UNICEF, put the '[UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)', (UNCRC) at the heart of their planning, policies, practice and ethos.

UNCRC is a list of rights that all children, everywhere in the world, have. The rights are all the things that children and young people need to make sure they are healthy, happy and safe. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights, but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between adults and children, between children themselves, and between adults themselves.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy. All data will be handled in accordance with the school’s Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit for this Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Disciplinary Records Capability Records Monitoring and Evaluation Records HR / Personnel Files	Name, DOB, Address, Gender, Ethnicity, Qualifications, PM Records, Monitoring and Evaluation Records, Personnel Files	To ensure a high standard of education for the children and families of Marlborough Primary School To ensure a duty of care is maintained at all times	Accessible by HT, SBM / HR Advisorys / GB Appeals Panels	Personnel files Hard-copy in sealed envelope in HR files. Electronic record secured with access only available to SBM/HT	Retained for as long as employed within the school, archived thereafter

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements	Has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements	Has a High Level of Data Compliance Requirements
		✓



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- a) This Code has been drawn up broadly in line with the Local Government Management Board's Model Code of Conduct, with variations to reflect the circumstances of schools. It should be read alongside the suite of safeguarding umbrella policies and procedures the school has in place.
- b) The public is entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from all employees who work in schools and that their conduct should never be influenced by improper motives.
- c) This Code has been formulated by the Council, following consultation with school Governors, Headteacher and employee representatives, to provide a set of standards of conduct, expected of school-funded employees at work and in respect of the link between their work and their private lives.
- d) This Code takes into account the requirements of the law and the provisions on official conduct in the appropriate national conditions of service.
- e) The Code applies to all school-funded employees and is of particular significance for employees involved in the procurement of goods and services.
- f) The Code will be made readily accessible in all schools and to all employees.
- g) Investigations of alleged breaches of this Code will be dealt with under the school's disciplinary code.
- h) If employees are in any doubt whether they may be in breach of this Code they should seek advice from their Headteacher, or in the case of the Headteacher from the Director of Education.

Standards

Employees are expected to give the highest possible standard of service to pupils and parents, and where it is part of their duties, to provide appropriate advice to other employees and Governors with impartiality. Employees should bring to the attention of management any deficiency in the provision of service and must report any impropriety or breach of procedure.

Disclosure of Information

- a) The law requires that certain types of information must be available to Governors, Members, auditors, government departments, service users and the public, e.g. on school performance and budgetary matters.
- b) Employees must not use any information obtained in the course of their employment for personal gain or benefit, nor shall they pass it on to others who might use it in such a way.
- c) Only employees authorised by their Headteacher to do so may talk to the Press, or make public statements on behalf of their school. Generally, an employee (including a Headteacher) contacted by the Press should seek the advice of the Council's Press Office who may deal with the matter on the school's behalf if the school wishes. This is not intended to prevent employees from writing or talking to the media on behalf of a Trades Union.

d) If employees consider that the non-disclosure of certain information is contrary to the wider public interest, they should advise their Headteacher or the Chair of Governors of the information and the issues concerned.

Political Neutrality/Activity

- a) Employees serve the Governing Body of their school within the overall framework of the Council.
- b) Some school funded non-teaching employees, who are normally those in more senior (M-grade) positions, are in politically restricted posts and by law are prevented from taking part in certain political activities outside their work. Employees who are in this position should have been told of this in writing and of the rules for claiming exemption, but any employee who is in any doubt about their position should contact their Headteacher. In any event, all teachers including the Headteacher are exempt from these restrictions.
- c) The political activities which are restricted for these non-teaching employees mainly cover the following areas:
 - 1. Standing as a candidate for election to the House of Commons, European Parliament or a local authority (other than a Parish Council)
 - 2. Holding office in a political party at any level, except in limited roles concerned only with the internal membership of the party
 - 3. Canvassing at an election
 - 4. Speaking in public or publishing any written or artistic work which appears to be intended to affect public support for a political party
- d) If an employee is in any doubt about whether any activity is political activity and covered by these rules, they should seek advice from their Headteacher.
- e) It is important that all relevant employees are aware of their position in terms of political activity because any breaking of the statutory rules will be a breach of contract and liable for investigation under the disciplinary procedure.
- f) Employees, whether or not politically restricted, must not allow their own personal or political opinions to interfere with their work and must exercise careful judgement if asked to express personal opinions in the course of their work.

Relationships

a) Governors

Some employees are required to give advice to Governors as part of their job. Mutual respect between employees and Governors is essential to good local practice in schools; however close personal familiarity between employees and individual Governors can damage the relationship and prove embarrassing to other employees and should therefore be avoided.

b) The School, Local Community and Service Users

Employees must always remember their responsibilities to the school and the wider community that they serve by ensuring courteous, efficient and impartial service delivery to all groups and individuals within the school and the wider community.

c) Contractors

All relationships with contractors or potential contractors must be made known to the Headteacher. Orders and contracts must be awarded on merit, by fair competition against other tenders, and no favouritism should be shown

to businesses run for example by friends, partners or relatives. No part of the community should be discriminated against.

Employees who engage or supervise contractors or who have an official relationship with contractors and have previously had or currently have a relationship in a private or domestic capacity with a contractor, must declare that relationship to the Headteacher.

Appointment and other Employment Matters

- a) Headteachers and other employees involved in appointments must ensure that these are made on the basis of merit. It would be unlawful for an employee to make an appointment which was based on anything other than the ability of the candidate to undertake the work. In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias, employees must not be involved in an appointment where they are related to an applicant, or have a personal relationship outside work with them.
- b) Similarly, Headteachers and other employees must not be involved in decisions relating to discipline, promotion or pay adjustments for any employee who is a relative, partner or close friend.

Outside Commitments

- a) Employees' off-duty hours are their personal concern but they must not subordinate their duty to their private interests or put themselves in a position where duty and private interests conflict.
- b) The Council would not wish to preclude employees unreasonably from undertaking additional work unless that work:
 - conflicts with or detrimentally affects the interests of the Council's or individual school's interests; or
 - in any way weakens public confidence in the conduct of the Council's or individual school's business; or
 - in any other way adversely affects their ability to undertake their workShould this be the case, their conduct will be considered a breach of the Council's or school's disciplinary Code.
- c) Employees must not, therefore, engage in any other business or take up any other additional appointment without first having carefully considered and ruled out the possibility of an adverse effect on their work or the interests of the Council or their school. Where there is any doubt as to the implications, the nature of the proposed employment must be discussed with their Headteacher or the Director of Education.
- d) If an employee decides to take up additional employment or engage in any other business, no outside work of any sort should be undertaken in the workplace. Use of Council facilities for this, e.g. telephones, photocopying etc. is forbidden.

Personal Interests

- a) Employees must declare to their Headteacher, or in the case of the Headteacher to the Chair of Governors, any non-financial interests that they consider could bring about conflict with the school's interests. Membership of a Trades Union is exempted from this requirement.
- b) Employees must declare any financial interests which could conflict with the school's interests.
- c) Employees must declare to their Headteacher, or in the case of the Headteacher to the Chair of Governors, membership of any organisation which is not open to the public without formal membership and commitment of allegiance and which has secrecy about its rules or membership or conduct e.g. freemasons.

d) Employees who have an interest, financial or non-financial, should not involve themselves in any decision on allocation of school services or resources from which they, their friends or family might benefit and should ensure that the matter is referred immediately to their Headteacher, or in the event of the Headteacher to the Chair of Governors.

Equality Issues

Employees have an obligation to ensure that policies relating to equality issues as agreed by the school are complied with, as well, of course, the requirements of the law. Everyone in the school and its wider community have a right to be treated with fairness and equity.

Separation of Roles during Tendering

a) Where employees are involved in letting contracts, or procuring goods or services, on behalf of the school, they must exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers.

b) Such employees who are privy to confidential information on tenders or costs for either internal or external contractors must not disclose that information to any unauthorised party or organisation.

c) Such employees must ensure that no special favour is shown to current or recent former employees or their partners, close relatives or associates in awarding contracts to businesses run by them or employing them in a senior or relevant managerial capacity.

Corruption

It is a criminal offence for an employee to receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage for doing or not doing anything or showing favour or disfavour to any person in their official capacity. It is for the employee to demonstrate that any such rewards have not been corruptly obtained.

Use of Financial Resources

Employees must ensure that they use public funds entrusted to them in a responsible and lawful manner, ensuring value for money to the school and its wider community and avoiding legal challenge to the school or the Council.

Hospitality

a) Employees should only accept offers of hospitality if there is a genuine need to impart information or represent the school in the community. Offers to attend purely social or sporting functions should be accepted only when these are part of the life of the community or where the school should be seen to be represented. They must be properly authorised and recorded.

b) When hospitality has to be declined the person offering it should be courteously but firmly informed of the procedures and standards operating within the school.

c) Employees must not accept significant personal gifts from pupils, parents, contractors and outside suppliers, other than insignificant tokens such as pens or diaries or small festive gifts.

d) When considering whether or not to accept hospitality, employees must be sensitive to the timing of decisions and the letting of contracts for which the provider may be bidding. Employees must never accept hospitality from a contractor during a tendering period.

e) Acceptance by employees of hospitality whilst in attendance at relevant conferences and courses is acceptable if it is clear that the hospitality is for the school rather than personal, if the school gives consent in advance and if the school is satisfied that any purchasing decisions are not compromised. Where visits to inspect equipment etc. are

required, employees must ensure that the school meets the cost of such visits to avoid jeopardising the integrity of subsequent purchasing decisions.

f) Employees must ensure that any hospitality or gift received is entered in the Hospitality Register maintained by their school.

Sponsorship - Giving and Receiving

a) Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor or is sought to sponsor a school activity, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic conventions concerning acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.

b) Where the school wishes to sponsor an event or service neither an employee nor any partner, spouse or relative must benefit from such sponsorship in a direct way without there being full disclosure to the Headteacher of any such interest. Similarly, where the school through sponsorship, grant aid, financial or other means, gives support in the community, employees must ensure that impartial advice is given and that there is no conflict of interest involved.

Social Media Guidance

Social networking websites provide an opportunity for people to communicate en masse and share ideas regardless of geographic distance.

The below guidelines are intended not as a set of instructions, but general advice on how to avoid compromising your professional position:

- Ensure that your privacy settings are set correctly.
- Do not under any circumstances accept friend requests from a person you believe to be either a parent or a pupil of Marlborough Primary School.
- Do not make disparaging remarks about your employer/colleagues. Doing this in the presence of others may be deemed as bullying and/or harassment.

Other users could post a photo on their profile in which you are named, so think about any photos you appear in. On Facebook, you can 'untag' yourself from a photo. If you do find inappropriate references to you and/or images of you posted by a 'friend' online you should contact them and the site to have the material removed.

Parents and students may access your profile and could, if they find the information and/or images it contains offensive, complain to your employer.

If you have any concerns about information on your social networking site or if you are the victim of cyberbullying, you should contact your relevant union representative straightaway

Do not publish your date of birth and home address on Facebook. Identity theft is a crime on the rise with criminals using such information to access to your bank or credit card account.

Be aware of what monitoring, if any, may be carried out by the school/college. Full details of this should be detailed in the IT policy.

Stop the network provider from passing on your details to other companies for research and advertising purposes. For example, to stop Facebook from forwarding your details, click "Privacy Settings". Under "Applications and websites" click "edit your settings". Scroll down to "instant personalisation" and make sure the checkbox for "enable instant personalisation on partner websites" is unchecked.

Ensure that any comments and/or images could not be deemed defamatory or in breach of copyright legislation.

Remember that prospective employers may scour websites looking for information before a job interview. Take care to remove any content you would not want them to see.

As a minimum, we recommend you use the following privacy settings:

Privacy Setting Security Level	Recommended
Send you messages	Friends only
See your friends list	Friends only
See your education and work	Friends only
See your current city and hometown	Friends only
See your likes, activities and other connections	Friends only
See your status, photos and posts	Friends only
See your family and relationships	Friends only
See your bio and quotations	Friends only
See your family and relationships	Friends only
See photos and videos your tagged in	Friends only
See your birthday	Friends only
Permission to comment on your posts	Friends only
See places you check into	Friends only
See your contact information	Friends only