



Staff Code of Conduct



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Aim of this code of conduct

Dovecote School expects all students to receive high-quality teaching and learning in a positive and respectful environment.

Employees at the school should ensure that their own behaviour, and the manner in which they conduct themselves with colleagues, students, parents and other stakeholders, sets a positive and professional example for students.

We recognise that the majority of staff members act appropriately and treat each other with dignity and respect; however, we consider it important to clarify the expected standards.

This policy forms part of a staff member's contract of employment and failure to comply with it, along with the associated school policies, may result in disciplinary action being taken, including legal action where this is warranted.

This document applies to staff members who are:

- Employed by the school, including the headteacher and volunteers.
- Employed in units or bases that are attached to the school.

These employees are governed by their employment contracts and any relevant laws pertaining to their activities within the school, for example, the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

1.1.1 Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018 & UK GDPR
- **Data Use and Access Act 2025**
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019



1. Professional behaviour and conduct

Staff are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct such that public confidence in their integrity is sustained.

Staff will:

- Have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school.
- Maintain high standards in their attendance and punctuality.
- Take care of themselves and others affected by their activity at school.
- Cooperate with school leaders in meeting their duties under the relevant regulations.
- Treat students, parents, colleagues and external contacts with dignity and respect.
- Observe proper boundaries appropriate to their professional position, showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others.
- Inform the headteacher if they are subject to a criminal conviction, caution, ban, police enquiry, investigation or pending prosecution.
- Be aware that professional behaviour and conduct is expected to be extended to extracurricular trips and visits.
- Act appropriately in terms of the views they express – in particular, political views – and the use of school resources always. Be aware that professional behaviour and conduct extends to use of school devices, internet, technology systems and AI, both online and offline.
- Staff will remain vigilant to emerging safeguarding risks, including online harms, radicalisation, exploitation, and the misuse of technology.

Staff will not:

- Use foul or abusive language.
- Perpetrate discrimination, bullying, harassment, or intimidation, including physical, sexual and verbal abuse.
- Misuse or misrepresent their position, qualifications, or experience.
- Seek to bring the school into disrepute.
- Use school resources for political purposes.

2. Safeguarding students

This policy is also informed by *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026*, which sets out inter-agency safeguarding responsibilities.

In accordance with 'Keeping children safe in education 2025' (KCSIE), staff have a responsibility to safeguard students, protect and promote their welfare, and ensure that they provide a learning environment in which students feel safe, secure and respected.



Staff will share information appropriately in line with statutory guidance *Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding (2024)*.

To effectively safeguard students, staff are required to follow the procedures outlined in this Staff Code of Conduct, the Behaviour Policy and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and ensure that they do not act in a way that may put students at risk of harm, or lead others to question their actions.

In accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, staff will be prepared to identify students who may be subject to, or at risk of, various types of abuse and neglect, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Child-on-child abuse
- Child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Domestic abuse
- FGM
- Serious violence

Copies of policies and a copy of Part one (or, where appropriate Annex A for staff not working directly with children) of KCSIE will be provided to staff at induction. Staff will have a clear understanding of the school's policies and procedures with regards to safeguarding issues, e.g., abuse, and the important role they play in preventing harm against students.

In accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, staff will also be aware of the factors that could increase a student's risk of being subject to safeguarding issues, including but not limited to:

- Students who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans).
- Children absent from education, particularly if on repeat occasions and/or long periods of time.
- Elective Home Education (EHE)
- Students requiring mental health support.
- LAC, previously LAC and care leavers.
- Students with SEND or health issues
- Students who identify as or are perceived to be LGBTQ+

If a member of staff has any concerns about a student's welfare, they will act on them immediately. They will follow the necessary reporting and referral procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and speak to the DSL. Staff will be aware of the



procedures to follow if a student tells them they are experiencing abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

In all cases, if a member of staff feels unsure as to whether an incident or student would be classed as a safeguarding concern, they will speak directly to the DSL. Staff will not assume a colleague will act and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe.

Staff will recognise, acknowledge, and understand that even if there are no reports of child-on-child abuse in the school, this does not mean it is not happening. Staff will understand the scale of harassment and abuse and challenge inappropriate behaviours between peers that are abusive in nature and report any concerns regarding any form of abuse to the DSL without undue delay.

Staff will recognise that sexual harassment and sexual violence can occur between children (child-on-child abuse) and will not be tolerated. This includes behaviour such as sexual comments, inappropriate touching, sexualised language, and online harassment.

Staff will not dismiss such behaviour as “banter”, “part of growing up” or “just having a laugh” and will challenge inappropriate behaviour immediately and report concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.

Any member of staff that has concerns about another staff member’s actions or intent or believes these actions may lead to a student being put at risk of harm, will report this in line with the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy or Whistleblowing Policy immediately so appropriate action can be taken. This includes if the staff member in question is a volunteer, supply staff or an individual using school premises to host extra-curricular activities.

If the concern is regarding the headteacher, staff will report this to the Proprietor Body.

The school will implement statutory RSHE guidance from September 2026, supporting STUDENTS to understand relationships, safety and wellbeing.

If a member of staff feels unable to raise an issue with the school, they will use other whistleblowing channels, including contacting the NSPCC’s helpline on 0800 028 0285 (between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm Monday to Friday) or email address help@nspcc.org.uk. Staff can also access guidance at www.gov.uk/whistleblowing. Fear about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of students.

Staff will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. This will include training around online safety, particularly concerning the understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring, in line with the filtering and monitoring standards. This training will be updated at least annually to continue to provide staff members with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

Staff will recognise that, when teaching students about safeguarding and online safety, a one-size-fits-all approach may not be appropriate for every student, and a more personalised or



contextualised approach may be needed for students who are vulnerable, victims of abuse and/or have SEND.

Staff understand their responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems and must report any concerns regarding access to inappropriate content.

Staff will be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it.

Staff will be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care service (CSCS) and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, along with the role they may be expected to play in such assessments.

Staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe by the school. They will never give the impression that students are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor should a student ever be made to feel ashamed for reporting an incident.

Staff will know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality, involving those who need to be involved, but will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

Staff must report all concerns, including low-level concerns, in line with the school's Low-Level Safeguarding Concerns Policy.

Staff understand the importance of maintaining a culture of zero tolerance towards sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Staff will be aware of the school's legal duty to make a referral to the DBS where they consider an individual has engaged in contact that has harmed, or is likely to harm, a child.

3. Appearance and dress

The school expects that staff will:

- Ensure that their appearance is clean and neat when at work or representing the school.
- Dress in a manner that is appropriate to their role – the school will make reasonable adjustments to uniform expectations to suit disabilities, medical conditions, and religious and cultural beliefs.
- Not wear clothing that could have implications for the health and safety of themselves, or others in their care.
- Remember that they are role models for students, and that their dress and appearance should reflect this.
- Not dress in a way that would cause embarrassment to students, parents, colleagues, or other stakeholders.



- Ensure that, if visible, tattoos do not cause offence to others; if tattoos are likely to cause offence, they must be covered up whilst in work.
- Ensure that jewellery and piercings are minimal and, in the health and safety interests of both staff and children, avoid anything that could catch or be caught by students.

Just to clarify a few common questions:

- **No vests or spaghetti straps, please** – shoulders should be covered.
- **Keep it all covered** – no short shorts or skirts.
- **No flip-flops, sliders, muscle vests, or open-toed/open-backed shoes** – this is for health and safety as well as professionalism.

4. Attendance

The school expects that staff will:

- Attend work in accordance with their contract of employment and associated terms and conditions in relation to hours, days of work and holidays.
- Comply with the school's notification of sickness absence procedures.
- Make routine medical and dental appointments outside of their working hours or during holidays where possible.
- Refer to the school's Staff Leave of Absence Policy if they need time off for any reason other than personal illness.
- Follow the school's absence reporting procedure when they are absent from work due to illness or injury.

5. Conduct outside of work

Staff may undertake work outside school, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the school.

Staff will not engage in outside work which could seriously damage the reputation and standing of the school, the employee's own reputation, or the reputation of other members of the school community. Staff will also not engage in outside work at a level which may contravene The Working Time Regulations 1998 or affect an individual's work performance.

Staff committing offences that involve violence, possession or use of illegal drugs, or sexual misconduct is unacceptable, and will result in disciplinary procedures in line with the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Staff will not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, the school, school community or employer into disrepute. This is explored further in the [Acceptable use of technology](#) section of this policy.

6. Smoking, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other substances



Staff will not smoke or vape on, or within a **one-mile** radius of the school premises and whenever in the sight of students, parents or visitors.

Staff will not smoke or vape whilst working with or supervising students off-site, such as when on educational visits and trips.

Staff will report for work and remain in a condition to perform their duties free from the effects of drugs, alcohol or any other substances that may hinder judgement and cause changes in behaviour; this does not include over-the-counter painkillers such as paracetamol.

Staff will adhere to the provisions outlined within the Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy.

7. Health and safety

Staff will:

- Be familiar with, and adhere to, the school's Health and Safety Policy and ensure that they take every action to keep themselves and everyone in the school environment safe and well.
- Comply with health and safety regulations, adhering to any rules, routines and procedures in place, and cooperate with school leaders and colleagues on matters relating to health and safety.
- Use the correct equipment and tools for the job and any protective clothing supplied.
- Inform the headteacher of any paid work which is undertaken elsewhere, for compliance with The Working Time Regulations 1998 (as amended).
- Adhere to their common law duty to act as a prudent parent would when in charge of students.

8. Conflicts of interests

The school is aware that situations may arise where family interests or loyalties conflict with those of the school; however, staff have an obligation to act in the best interests of the school community to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest.

All staff will be able to demonstrate that they do not have a vested interest in any decision-making or budget spending. All declarations will be submitted in writing to the headteacher for inclusion on the school's Declared Conflicts of Interest Register.

Failure to make a relevant declaration of interests is a serious breach of trust and, therefore, if employees are in doubt about a declaration, they are advised to contact the school or trade union.

Any member of staff found to be withholding information about a conflict of interest will be subject to disciplinary action in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Staff and volunteers will be responsible for:



- Following the provisions outlined within the school's Conflict of Interests Policy.
- Declaring any conflicts of interest.
- Acting in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Identifying any conflicts of interest that have not been previously declared.
- Following the school's Whistleblowing Policy where there are concerns that a conflict of interest has not been declared, and an individual might have subsequently benefitted.
- Ensuring that all individuals in a discussion do not have a vested interest in the subject.
- Informing the headteacher of any relatives who may have a declarable interest.
- Consider whether they need to declare their relationship with any individual where this might cause a conflict with school activities.

Membership to a trade union or staff representative group does not need to be declared.

Financial inducements

Staff will:

- Familiarise themselves and comply with the school's financial regulations.
- Declare to the People, Resources and Compliance Manager, in writing, any gifts received, with the exception of:
 - Low cost, functional items suitable for business rather than personal use and displaying the supplier's logo – these items may be accepted.
 - Non-excessive gifts offered by parents or students to school staff to express their gratitude, but staff members should always refuse monetary gifts.
 - Hospitality in the form of meals and drinks where it is part of a normal business meeting.
 - Authorised visits to exhibitions, demonstrations, conferences, business meals and social functions in connection with the school's business, which shall be at the school's expense.
- Not accept a personal gift, payment, or other incentive from a business contact – any such gifts should be returned.
- Declare any gift that cannot be returned to the People, Resources and Compliance Manager, who will decide how it will be used.
- Only accept offers to specific events after authorisation from SLG.

Contacts

Staff members will not use school business contacts for acquiring materials or services at trade/discount prices for non-school activities, unless participating in concessionary schemes arranged by trade unions or other such groups.



9. Maintaining professional relationships with students

The school expects that staff will:

- Maintain professional boundaries and relationships with students at all times, and will consider whether their actions are warranted, proportionate, safe and necessary.
- Act in an open and transparent way that would not lead to others questioning their actions.
- Ensure that they do not establish social contact with students for the purpose of securing a friendship, or to pursue or strengthen a relationship.
- Ensure that they do not develop personal or sexual relationships with students: this includes sexual remarks and discussing their own sexual relationships with, or in the presence of, students.
- Only contact students via the school's established mechanisms: personal phone numbers, email addresses or social media platforms will not be used to contact students.

Staff are aware that they must not:

- Discuss personal information with students, such as concerning their lifestyle or marital status, unless it is directly relevant to the topic being taught.
- Correspond in a personal nature through any medium with students, e.g., phone calls or text messages, unless it is within the staff member's role and via an approved communication method, e.g., school emails.
- Adopt an ongoing support role beyond the scope of their position.
- Use personal equipment for approved activities, such as a personal camera, unless approved in writing by the SLG, and will not photograph, audio record or film students without authorisation from the SLG and consent from the student's parent.
- Save images, videos or audio recordings of students on personal devices, unless authorised by the SLG or parents.
- Upload images, videos or audio recordings of students to any location without consent from parents and the SLG.
- Discuss or share information regarding other students or members of staff; staff should be aware of their surroundings when speaking to others, as their conversations may be overheard.
- Ignore instances of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour amongst students.
- Invite or allow students to visit their home.
- Allow students to access staff members' personal devices.
- Attend students' homes or their social gatherings, unless approved by the SLG.
- Be alone with a student outside of teaching responsibilities, unless approved by the SLG.
- Enter changing rooms or toilets occupied by students, when supervision is not required or appropriate, use toilet facilities allocated to students, or undress in facilities intended for use by students.



- Not transport a student unless in line with the Driving at Work Policy.
- Carry out one-to-one tutoring, mentoring or coaching of students, unless approved by the headteacher or SLG.
- Give personal gifts or special favours, or disproportionately single specific students out for special duties or responsibilities.
- Offer overnight, weekend or holiday care as a respite to parents without the approval of the headteacher.

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect to that child, even if the relationship is consensual.

Where inappropriate contact is made with students, this will be raised with the headteacher and handled in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

If a student is consistently attempting to befriend or contact a member of staff on social media, the member of staff will inform the headteacher as soon as possible.

Staff are strongly discouraged from forming personal relationships with former students, including on social media, as well as with the parents of any students on social media.

In the event of the school becoming aware of a close relationship between a member of staff and a former student which may raise concerns about their suitability to work with children, the headteacher will contact the LA designated officer (LADO) for advice and guidance.

Any inappropriate contact made with former students will be handled in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

Appropriate language

Staff will be informed that students should not be treated as friends. Staff will not:

- Use inappropriate names or terms of endearment.
- Allow inappropriate conversations or enquiries of a sexual nature to occur.
- Comment on a student's appearance, including personal flattery or criticism.
- Treat students disrespectfully or discriminatorily, based upon their perceived or actual protected characteristics.
- Subject students to humiliation, profanity, or vilification.
- Allow or partake in suggestive humour, banter, jokes or innuendos of a sexual nature.
- Use obscene or inappropriate gestures and language.
- Partake in personal conversations, including on the phone, where this may be overheard by students.

10. Physical contact with students



All staff members will respect the personal space and privacy of all students and will avoid situations which unnecessarily result in close physical contact.

The school understands that there are circumstances in which it is entirely necessary for staff to have physical contact with students, e.g., when applying first aid and assisting with intimate care, but staff will only do so in a professional and appropriate manner in line with relevant school policies.

When physical contact is made with students, it is imperative that it is conducted in a way which is responsive to the student's needs, is of limited duration and is appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, and background.

Staff will seek the student's permission, where possible, before initiating contact.

Staff will always use their professional judgement when determining what physical contact is appropriate, as this may differ between students, and ensure that the student's feelings and wishes are always taken into account.

Staff will never touch a student in a way which is indecent and will be aware that even well-intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by a student, an observer or by anyone to whom this action is described and, therefore, will always be prepared to explain their actions.

Staff will not engage in rough play, tickling or play fights with students.

Physical contact will never be secretive; if a member of staff believes an action could be misinterpreted, this will be reported to the headteacher, or the Proprietor Body if the concern is about the headteacher, and appropriate procedures will be followed.

Where it is necessary in PE classes for teachers to demonstrate use of equipment, this will be conducted with another member of staff if possible. If a student is required to participate, their consent will be given before doing so.

If a student is in distress and in need of comfort as reassurance, staff may use age-appropriate physical contact, such as placing their hand on the student's shoulder. Staff will remain self-aware of their actions at all times and ensure that their contact is not threatening, intrusive or subject to misinterpretation.

The school acknowledges that situations may arise in which staff members will be required to use physical intervention, and in some cases reasonable force, in order to manage conflict, disruption and distressed behaviour when other measures have failed to do so. In these cases, staff will ensure that actions such as safe touch and reasonable force are used in a correct and safe manner, in accordance with the relevant legislation and national guidance and in line with the schools Physical Intervention Policy.

In all interactions with students' staff will always behave and act in a respectful and professional manner and staff will be aware that extra caution and consideration may be needed where it is known that a student has previously suffered from abuse or neglect.



11. Showering and changing

Staff will ensure that students are afforded respect and privacy whilst they are changing, e.g., before and after PE; however, a level of supervision is required to ensure that students are safe, and that they are not subjected to bullying.

The supervision will be appropriate to the needs and ages of the students, and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment.

Staff will adhere to the appropriate policies and risk assessments, e.g., PE risk assessment and ensure that appropriate supervision and support is given to all students, including those who may need assistance with showering and changing.

Where possible, female staff will supervise girls and male staff will supervise boys.

Staff will announce their intention of entering the changing room to allow students to maintain their privacy and will only remain in the changing room for as long as is necessary.

Staff will never change or shower in the same area as students.

12. Transporting students

Staff are aware that the safety and welfare of students is the responsibility of the school until students are with their parents. The school is committed to taking all possible safety measures to ensure the safety of students.

When it is necessary to transport students off-site, staff will gain consent from parents before transporting students and adhere to the appropriate school policies and risk assessments, such as the Driving at Work Policy, and the Safer Working Practices Policy.

Staff will ensure that they:

- Hold a full valid driving licence for the category of vehicle being driven and providing their licence details to the headteacher where required.
- Drive in accordance with the laws of the road and Highway Code.
- Check before each journey that the vehicle is roadworthy, e.g., tyres are properly inflated and meet legal requirements.
- Ensure that they are fit to drive; where their fitness to drive may be impaired, e.g., due to a medical condition or taking medication, they inform their line manager as soon as possible and notify the DVLA where required.
- Notify the headteacher where there is any change in their circumstance in relation to driving at work, e.g., if they acquire penalty points on their licence for motoring offences outside of work.

Staff will only use their own vehicle to transport students where there is no practical or reasonable alternative and where agreed upon by the headteacher and parents in advance of



the journey. Only members of staff with the appropriate level of DBS check and safeguarding and behaviour management training will be permitted to transport students.

When using their own vehicle to transport students, staff will ensure that their driving insurance is valid for the purposes of business use, including cover for persons travelling as business passengers.

Two or more staff will be present in the vehicle to avoid any discrepancy regarding safeguarding concerns.

Staff will not offer students transport outside of their normal working duties, other than in an emergency or if a student is at risk. These circumstances will be recorded and reported to the headteacher and the student's parents.

13. Acceptable use of technology

Staff are aware of the benefits and challenges associated with using technology, including AI, in school. When using technology, staff will always adhere to the various procedures, freedoms and limitations outlined in the relevant school policies, which include but are not limited to:

- Online Safety Policy
- Staff ICT and Electronic Devices Policy
- Safe Use of AI Policy
- Mobile Phone Usage (3CX) Addendum

All staff will maintain a professional level of conduct in their personal use of technology, and read, sign, and adhere to the school's Technology Acceptable Use Agreement.

Staff will be aware of how the use of technology can impact safeguarding and wellbeing issues, e.g., online abuse.

Staff will be vigilant to ensure their own behaviour is respectful and that students are using technology appropriately while under their care.

Staff will be vigilant to ensure their own behaviour is respectful and that students are using technology, including AI, appropriately while under their care.

Staff must be aware of risks associated with artificial intelligence, including the creation or sharing of manipulated or synthetic images (deepfakes). Any misuse of AI that could harm STUDENTS or staff will be treated as a safeguarding concern.

Personal devices

Personal devices are used in accordance with the provisions outlined in the policies above and within the Staff ICT and Electronic Devices Policy and the Device User Agreement. Any personal electronic device that is brought into school is the responsibility of the user.



Personal devices are not permitted to be used in the following locations:

- Classrooms
- Toilets
- Changing rooms

Staff are not permitted to use their personal devices during lesson time, other than in an emergency.

Staff are not permitted to use their personal devices to take photos or videos of students.

The use of personal mobile phones is permitted only where the 3CX communication application has been installed by the IT department, due to poor reception across the school site. This use is strictly for internal communication purposes. Staff must not use personal devices to communicate with STUDENTS, take images, or store any school-related or personal data. All use must comply with safeguarding, confidentiality, and professional conduct expectations.

Social media

Staff will be aware that their conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within the school.

Staff will remain mindful of their use of social media and their web-based presence including written content, videos or photographs, and views expressed directly or indirectly which may bring themselves, the school, or the school community into disrepute.

Staff are required to employ the highest security settings on any personal profiles they may have.

Staff will not engage in inappropriate use of social networking sites including contacting students or their family members, accepting or inviting friend requests from students or their family members, or following students or their family members on social media.

The school understands that some staff are also parents of students at the school and, therefore, may wish to contact other parents. When doing so, staff will exercise their professional judgement and will not contact family members on social media if this would lead to a conflict of interest.

This section should be read in conjunction with the **Mobile Phone Usage (3CX) Addendum**.

14. Photography, images and videos

All staff will act in accordance with the school's Photography and Images Policy.

Photographs, images and videos will only be taken using school equipment – using personal mobile phones for this purpose is prohibited and taking images of students will not be taken for personal use.



Staff will ensure that imagery and videos will be kept in an appropriate and secure place in school.

No student will be photographed in a state of undress or semi-undress, or in a situation which could be considered as indecent or sexual.

Photographs and video footage of students, school personnel, or visitors will not be used in the generation of new or composite images via artificial intelligence (AI).

Staff will not take images of a student's injury, bruising or similar (e.g. following a disclosure of abuse), even if they have been requested to do so by children's social care and staff members will not make audio recordings of any disclosure made by a student.

Consent for taking photographs will be obtained from parents, or the student themselves, if they are deemed old enough and able to make the decision for themselves.

The age of consent that is legislated is 13 and above; however, this is only applicable for online services provided directly to children. For everything else, an appropriate age of consent is considered on a case-by-case basis by the DPO, headteacher and a student's parents (where appropriate).

Students who have not provided consent, either personally or via their parents, to have their photograph taken or be filmed will have their wishes respected, in line with the Photography and Images Policy.

The headteacher will be notified of the proposed use of the imagery or video and the equipment and ensure that the use of such is included in lesson plans where this is necessary.

All photographs and videos will be available for scrutiny, and staff will be prepared to explain and justify the images or footage taken.

Careful consideration will always be given to the activities which are being filmed or photographed, to ensure that images or videos are not indecent and cannot be misused.

15. Premises, equipment, and communication

Staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of and following the requirements of the School Security Policy.
- Securing windows and doors when rooms are not in use.
- Ensuring that visitors sign in and out at the school office.
- Challenging any unidentified individuals and notifying the headteacher of any unauthorised person.
- Securing valuable equipment after use.
- Ensuring the security of school equipment when taken off the school premises, such as laptops.
- Accessing the school premises in accordance with the school's Key Holder Policy.



- Acting in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy and Data and Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan, ensuring that data and information is secure.
- Reporting any minor security concerns to the headteacher.
- Reporting major security concerns directly to the police or emergency services, where appropriate.
- Carrying their school ID with them at all times.
- Being responsible for the security of any of their own property that they bring to the school site.

School equipment and systems are available only for school-related activities and will not be used for the fulfilment of another job or for personal use, unless specifically authorised by the headteacher. Illegal, inappropriate, or unacceptable use of school equipment or communication systems may result in disciplinary action and, in serious cases, could lead to an employee's dismissal.

Employees receiving inappropriate communication or material, or who are unsure about whether something they propose to do might breach this policy, should seek advice from the headteacher.

The school reserves the right to monitor emails, phone calls, internet activity, AI use, or document production on school-owned equipment, principally in order to avoid offensive or nuisance material and to protect systems from viruses, but also to ensure proper and effective use of systems.

Communication systems may be accessed when the school suspects that the employee has been misusing systems or facilities, or for the investigation of suspected fraud or other irregularity. Access will be secured by the systems manager, only with the Headteacher.

Passwords should not be shared and access to computer systems must be kept confidential except on the express request of the headteacher or systems manager. Breaches of this confidentiality may be subject to disciplinary action.

School equipment that is used outside the premises, e.g. laptops, will be returned to the school when the employee leaves employment or if requested to do so by the headteacher.

16. Data protection and confidentiality

All staff will be aware of their responsibilities as laid out in the schools Data Protection Policy and in line with the core principles of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data Use and Access Act 2025.

Staff members will not disclose sensitive information about the school, its employees, or the LA to other parties. The only exception to this being when the confidential information gives rise to concerns about the safety or welfare of a student.



Staff members have the right to request access to data that is held about them. Such requests will be made to the headteacher in writing in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

Staff will ensure that:

- Confidential paper records are kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe, with restricted access, and will not be left unattended or in clear view anywhere with general access.
- Implement a 'clear desk policy' to avoid unauthorised access to physical records containing sensitive or personal information.
- Memory sticks are not used to hold personal information unless they are password-protected and fully encrypted.
- They will not use their personal laptops or computers for school purposes. All necessary members of staff are provided with their own secure login and password, and every computer regularly prompts users to change their password.
- When sending confidential information staff will always check that the recipient is correct before sending.
- They involve the DPO in all data protection matters closely and in a timely manner.
- They only use AI systems that have been tested and approved for use by the school.

If staff need to use their personal laptops for school purposes, particularly if they are working from home, they will bring their device into school before using it for work to ensure the appropriate software can be downloaded and information encrypted.

Before sharing data, all staff will ensure:

- They are allowed to share it.
- That adequate security is in place to protect it.
- Who will receive the data has been outlined in a privacy notice.

Where personal information that could be considered private or confidential is taken off the premises, either in electronic or paper format, staff will take extra care to follow the same procedures for security, e.g., keeping devices under lock and key. The person taking the information from the school premises accepts full responsibility for the security of the data.

When students and staff join the school, the staff member or student (or, where appropriate, student's parent) will be required to complete a consent form for personal data use. This consent form deals with the taking and use of photographs and videos, amongst other things. Where appropriate, third parties may also be required to complete a consent form.

The school holds the right to take the necessary disciplinary action against a staff member if they believe them to be in breach of the above security measures.

17. Probity of records



The deliberate falsification of documents, such as references, academic qualifications, or legal documents, is unacceptable. Where a staff member falsifies records or other documents, including those held electronically, this will be regarded as a serious disciplinary matter and potentially a criminal offence.

18. Monitoring and review

This document will be reviewed on an **annual** basis by the headteacher, and any changes made will be communicated to all members of staff.

The next scheduled review date of this document is **1st August 2026**.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this document as part of their induction programme.

This policy will be reviewed in line with updates to statutory guidance, particularly Keeping Children Safe in Education.