



St Anne (Stanley) C of E Primary School Safer Working Practices - Code of Conduct for Adults

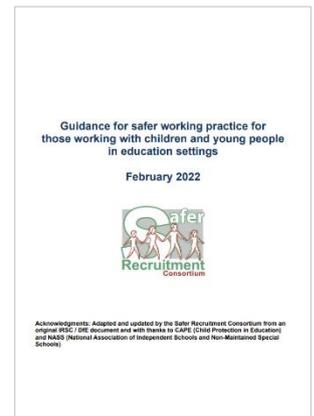
Introduction:

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2023) sets out the requirement for all schools to have a staff Code of Conduct. All staff (including visiting staff), volunteers and governors should follow this Code of Conduct.

St Anne (Stanley) C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting children's welfare and expects all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment and maintain a vigilant and safe environment.

It is our willingness to work in a safe manner and challenge inappropriate behaviour that underpins this commitment.

Everyone, is expected to adhere to this 'Code of Conduct' along with the Safer Recruitment Consortium [Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings](#) 2022



Everyone **must** read **and understand Part One and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2023)**.

This Code of Conduct aims to support adults so they don't work in a manner which might lead to an allegation against them by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise behaviour and by supporting staff and volunteers to understand what safe, professional conduct is.

Equally, it aims to reduce the opportunity for any adult intent on grooming or harming a young person. The policy aims to reduce the risk of incidents or misunderstandings occurring by developing and setting out clear guidelines and boundaries. It encourages you to work in an open and transparent way that should avoid someone questioning your motives, intentions or suitability to work with young people.

Our school promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Creating this culture in which all concerns are shared responsibly, in a timely way with the right person, and are recorded and dealt with appropriately is critical to effective safeguarding practice. This culture enables the school to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour at the earliest possible stage, minimises the risk of abuse and ensures that all adults working in or on behalf of the school are clear about professional boundaries and act within these, in accordance with our ethos and values. This culture also empowers individuals to share concerns with key staff about their own behaviour at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is a key principle of this Code of Conduct that **everyone** understands their responsibility to share **without delay** any concerns they may have about a child's welfare or an adult's behaviour towards a young person. This includes any behaviours, which may not meet the harm threshold and may be deemed to be a 'low level concern' as set out in our Child Protection Policy.

In addition, **everyone** has a responsibility to escalate their concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer if they feel that safeguarding concerns they have raised about a child or adult working at the school are not being addressed. Further information and guidance



regarding how school will respond to concerns about an adult's conduct towards children where the harm threshold is met, are set out in our Managing Allegations Policy.

Code of Conduct:

St Anne (Stanley) C of E Primary School will create a culture of openness, transparency, trust and support where all members of the school community feel empowered to share relevant information about themselves or someone else.

- Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct, which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions.
- If you have any concerns that a child is being harmed, abused or neglected you **must share your concerns immediately** both verbally **and** in writing with the School's Designated Safeguarding Leads **Mrs Lovell or Mrs Simons**, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads **Mrs Riley, Mrs Kenwright, Mrs Stokes** or another member of the School's Senior Leadership Team.
Always listen carefully to the child and report what they tell you in the child's own words.
Never promise to keep a secret.
- If you receive an allegation against an adult working in the school or observe behaviour that concerns you, you must discuss your concerns **without delay** with the Headteacher. In the absence of the Headteacher, concerns must be shared with another senior member of staff such as the Deputy Headteacher, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads or the Chair of Governors **Rev. Emma Williams**. Concerns regarding the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors or the Local Authority Designated Officer.
- The school's Whistleblowing Policy and the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who feel unable to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 - line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday or email: help@nspcc.org.uk. [Safeguarding-Mate](#) can also guide staff, should they have a concern about an adult's behaviour.
- If you are worried that the behaviour of an adult working in the school (including all third party staff, supply staff and volunteers) is giving cause for concern, no matter how small the concern is and even if it does not meet the harm threshold, you must share your concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, **without delay**. This is in line with the low-level concern procedures set out within our Child Protection Policy. Concerns regarding the Designated Safeguarding Lead, should be directed to the Headteacher.
- Anyone (in emergencies or if they are required to) can make a referral about their concerns for a child directly to Liverpool Children's Services on 0151 233 3700.

You should:

- Follow the School's Child Protection Policy and Procedures and in line with this, share safeguarding information appropriately but also act accordingly with sensitive and confidential information.
- Be alert to the indicators of harm and abuse towards a child, including child on child abuse.
- Dress appropriately according to your role, ensuring that clothing is compliant with professional standards and is not likely to be viewed as offensive or revealing and that it is



absent of any political or other contentious slogans or images. This applies to online or virtual teaching, as well as face to face.

- Act as an appropriate role model, treating all members of the school community with respect and tolerance.
- Always maintain appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour, which could be misinterpreted by others. This includes within school, in your personal life and in any online activity. All staff have a responsibility to model safe practice at all times.
- Ensure that you appropriately challenge, any form of derogatory and sexualised language or behaviour to ensure that everyone is respectful at all times.
- Ensure gifts given or received, are recorded and discussed with your Line Manager.
- Respect others' confidentiality unless sharing information is appropriate to ensuring their welfare.
- Ensure that when working one to one with a child, it is only undertaken when absolutely necessary (both in person and online), in line with guidance given by the school and is with the prior knowledge and approval of senior leaders and parents/carers.
- Adhere to the school's policies, particularly those related to safeguarding - including child protection, behaviour, attendance, positive handling, intimate care, anti-bullying, equal opportunities, data protection, health and safety and online safety (acceptable use policy).
- Read, understand and adhere to Intimate Care Plans and Individual Health Care Plans, when supporting individual pupils.
- Ensure that you understand your responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018 and be clear that where personal information is recorded electronically, systems and devices are kept secure.
- Report any behaviour or situations that you feel may give rise to a complaint or misunderstanding in respect of your own actions, both in and out of school. Also, share situations with the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead, if you feel your actions might have sat outside this Code of Conduct, or may appear to others that they have done so.
- Share with the Headteacher (or Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence) any behaviour of another adult in the school where it gives you cause for concern or breaches this Code of Conduct or the school's Safeguarding Policies, in line with the low level concern procedures set out in our Child Protection Policy.
Examples of such behaviours include, but are not limited to, being over friendly with children, having favourites, taking photographs of children on their mobile phone or engaging with a child on a one to one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door. Your intervention may allow for their practice to be supported and developed and/or prevent a child from being harmed.
- Understand that it may be appropriate to discuss with the Headteacher matters outside of work, including online, which may have implications for the safeguarding of children in the workplace. This includes information about yourself. You must ensure that you are aware of the circumstances where this would be applicable.
- Be aware that behaviour by yourself, those with whom you have a relationship or association, or others in your personal life (in or out of school or online), may impact on your work with children.
- Staff are encouraged to declare any relationships, which exist outside of the workplace with any children, families or staff. This is in line with our school culture and enables any implications for practice to be considered and staff to be provided with appropriate advice to support safer working practices.
- Understand the circumstances where it may be necessary to 'self-report' incidents where they could have found themselves in a situation, which could be misinterpreted, or may appear compromising to others, or if they have behaved in a manner which, on reflection, they consider to fall below the standards set out within the Code of Conduct for adults.
- Inform the Headteacher of any cautions, convictions or relevant order accrued during your employment, and/or if you are charged with a criminal offence.



- Understand that if you commit a relevant offence that would appear on your DBS certificate or you become disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006 (those staff covered by the scope of the guidance) then you must inform the Headteacher.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006

Never:

- Act in a way both at work and/or in your personal life (including online) that brings yourself, school or the teaching profession into disrepute.
- Make, encourage or ignore others, making personal comments, which scapegoat, demean or humiliate any member of the school community including ignoring any form of child on child abuse.
- Use your position to intimidate, bully, humiliate, coerce or undermine any member of the school community. This includes shouting in anger and aggressively to punish them rather than raising your voice to be heard or avoid danger.
- Undermine fundamental British Values including democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths, beliefs or from different cultures.
- Develop 'personal' or sexual relationships with children and young people, including making sexual remarks or having inappropriate sexual banter. In addition, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it clear that all members of staff are in a position of trust and would therefore be committing a criminal offence to have a sexual relationship with a young person in full time education/below the age of 18, even if that pupil is over the age of consent.
- Engage in inappropriate conversations with students or share inappropriate personal information about yourself or others.
- Discriminate favourably or unfavourably towards a child.
- Give personal contact details to pupils or communicate outside of school using social networks, email, text, twitter, WhatsApp etc. or meet a young person out of school unless part of a planned school activity **with** the knowledge of the Headteacher.
- Have conversations on social networking sites that make reference to children, parents or other colleagues at the school or be derogatory about the school.
- Make any statements or post images on social networking sites that might cause someone to question your suitability to act as a role model to young people or bring your own or the school's reputation into disrepute.
- Communicate with parents through social network sites and you are strongly advised to declare any existing friendships/relationships with the Headteacher.
- Use personal equipment to photograph children (always use the school's equipment) and ensure any photographs are only stored in the designated secure place on the school's network and not on portable equipment.
- Never post on the school's website or social media accounts any photographs of children without consent. (Some children may be put at risk by their whereabouts being made publicly).
- Use your personal mobile phone (or other personal IT equipment, including 'wearable' technology) in areas used by children unless in emergencies or under an agreed protocol set out by the Headteacher. In the EYFS, mobile phones must be locked away in areas occupied by children.
- Undertake 'one to one' activities out of the sight of others unless it is a planned activity with the knowledge of your Line Manager and in keeping with your own responsibilities. You should not cover windows or door panels but always act in an open and transparent way.
- Transport children unsafely, for example by driving whilst using your mobile phone, consuming alcohol, failing to ensure that seat belts are worn or driving without appropriate insurance. Any external visits should be planned and risk assessed with the knowledge of the EVC and Headteacher. Unforeseen events should be reported to the Headteacher and it is good practice to have another adult to act as an escort during the journey.



- Consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including the misuse of prescribed medication, when professionally active and responsible for either pupils, parents, other colleagues and/or school property.
- Have physical contact with young people that might be misconstrued or considered indecent or harmful. Ensure you are able to give an account of the reasons for physical contact or physical intervention. Where physical contact is required, it is good practice for it to be within the sight of others. Any physical contact that is needed to control or restrain a child should always be the minimum required. The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher must be informed immediately.

All school employees should have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under this Code of Conduct.

It aims to help avoid poor working practices that may lead to a person's behaviour being investigated and the consideration of disciplinary procedures.