SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

Wakefield Pupil Referral Units

Sharing values, celebrating differences, embracing success.

# Vision

To enable all our learners to achieve personal success by becoming productive, resilient, responsible members of society.

Code of Conduct Policy

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**Contents**

[INTRODUCTION 4](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[PURPOSE, SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES 4](#_heading=h.3znysh7)

[SETTING AN EXAMPLE 4](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

[SAFEGUARDING PUPILS/STUDENTS 5](#_heading=h.tyjcwt)

[LOW LEVEL CONCERNS ABOUT STAFF 5](#_heading=h.3dy6vkm)

[PUPIL/STUDENT DEVELOPMENT 6](#_heading=h.1t3h5sf)

[STAFF AND PUPIL RELATIONSHIPS 6](#_heading=h.4d34og8)

[HONESTY AND INTEGRITY 7](#_heading=h.2s8eyo1)

[CONDUCT OUTSIDE WORK 8](#_heading=h.17dp8vu)

[CONFIDENTIALITY 8](#_heading=h.3rdcrjn)

[DISCIPLINARY ACTION 9](#_heading=h.26in1rg)

[MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS 9](#_heading=h.lnxbz9)

[LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES 9](#_heading=h.35nkun2)

**INTRODUCTION**

The IMB are required to set out a Code of Conduct for all employees, in line with the statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education. By creating this Policy, we aim to ensure The Springfield Centre is environments where everyone is safe, happy and treated with respect.

In addition to this Policy, all staff employed under Teachers’ Terms and Conditions of Employment have a statutory obligation to adhere to the Teachers’ Standards.

Employees should be aware that a failure to comply with the following the Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action including dismissal.

**PURPOSE, SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES**

A Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the standards of behaviour all Centre staff are expected to observe, and The Springfield Centre should notify staff of this Code and the expectations therein. Centre staff are role models and are in a unique position of influence and must adhere to behaviour that sets a good example to all the pupils within The Springfield Centre. As a member of the school community, each employee has an individual responsibility to maintain their reputation and the reputation of The Springfield Centre, whether inside or outside working hours.

This Code of Conduct applies to:

* all staff who are employed by the trust, including the Headteacher;
* all staff in other settings, (mainstream support) that are attached to The Springfield Centre.

**SETTING AN EXAMPLE**

All staff must demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils/students to do the same. They will:

* Maintain high standards in attendance and punctuality
* Not use inappropriate or offensive language
* Treat pupils and others with dignity and respect
* Not undermine fundamental British Values
* Show tolerance and respect for the right of others
* Not express personal beliefs in a way that exploits pupils’ vulnerability of might lead them to break the law
* Understand the statutory frameworks they must act within
* Avoid putting themselves at risk of allegations of abusive or unprofessional conduct.

**SAFEGUARDING PUPILS/STUDENTS**

* Staff have a duty to safeguard pupils/students from:
  + physical abuse
  + sexual abuse
  + emotional abuse
  + neglect
* Staff are required to familiarise themselves with The Springfield Centre’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies, the Prevent initiative and also to ensure that they are aware of the processes that they need to follow if they have concerns about a child. Policies are available to all staff on the shared school drive.
* The duty to safeguard pupils/students includes the duty to report concerns about a pupil/student to the school’s Designated Senior Lead (DSL) for Child Protection.
* Staff must not seriously demean or undermine pupils, their parents or carers, or colleagues.
* Staff must take reasonable care of pupils/students under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

**LOW LEVEL CONCERNS ABOUT STAFF**

* A low-level concern is a behaviour towards a child by a member of staff that does not meet the harms threshold, is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, and may be as simple as causing a sense of unease or a ‘nagging doubt’. For example, this may include:
  + Being over-friendly with children
  + Having favourites
  + Taking photographs of children on a personal device
  + Engaging in one-to-one activities where they can’t easily be seen
  + Using inappropriate language
* Low-level concerns can include inappropriate conduct inside and outside of work.
* All staff should share any low-level concerns they have using the reporting procedures set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy. We also encourage staff to self-refer if they find themselves in a situation that could be misinterpreted. If staff are not sure whether behaviour would be deemed a low-level concern, we encourage staff to report it.
* All reports will be handled in a responsive, sensitive and proportionate way.
* Unprofessional behaviour will be addressed, and the staff member supported to correct it, at an early stage.
* This creates and embeds a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which our values and expected behaviour are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff, while minimising the risk of abuse.
* Reporting and responding to low-level concerns is covered in more detail in our child protection and safeguarding policy. This is available on the school shared drive.

**PUPIL/STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

* Staff must comply with trust policies and procedures that support the well-being and development of pupils/students.
* Staff must co-operate and collaborate with colleagues and with external agencies where necessary to support the development of pupils/students.
* Staff must follow reasonable instructions that support the development of pupils/students.

**STAFF AND PUPIL RELATIONSHIPS**

* Staff are required to observe proper boundaries with pupils that are appropriate to their professional position. They will act in a fair and transparent way that would not lead anyone to reasonably assume they are not doing so.
* If a staff member is concerned at any point that an interaction between themselves and a pupil may be misinterpreted, or if a staff member is concerned at any point about a fellow staff member and a pupil, this should be reported in line with the procedures set out in our child protection and safeguarding policy.
* Personal contact details should not be exchanged between staff and pupils. This includes social media profiles.

Further details in relation to this are included in the Safer Working Practice Policy available on the school shared drive.

**COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Springfield Centre staff’s social media profiles should not be available to pupils. If they have a personal profile on social media sites, they should consider not using their full names and set public profiles to private.

Staff should not attempt to contact pupils or their parents via social media, or any other means outside school, in order to develop any sort of relationship. They will not make any efforts to find pupils’ or parents’ social media profiles.

Staff will ensure that they do not post any images online that identify children who are pupils at the school without their consent.

Staff are required to adhere to the Social Media Policy and Safer Working Practice Policy.

**ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Staff will not use technology in school to view material that is illegal, inappropriate or likely to be deemed offensive. This includes, but is not limited to, sending obscene emails, gambling and viewing pornography or other inappropriate content.

Staff will not use personal mobile phones and laptops, or school equipment for personal use, in school hours or in front of pupils. They will also not use personal mobile phones or cameras to take pictures of pupils.

We have the right to monitor emails and internet use on the school IT system.

Staff are required to adhere to the Electronic Communications Guidance, Acceptable Use Agreement, Safer Working Practice and Social Media Policy.

**HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**

* Staff must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes dealing with pupils, the handling and claiming of money and the use of The Springfield Centre’s property and facilities.
* All staff must comply with the Bribery Act 2010. A person may be guilty of an offence of bribery under this act if they offer, promise or give financial advantage or other advantage to someone; or if they request, agree or accept, or receive a bribe from another person. If you believe that a person has failed to comply with the Bribery Act, you should refer to The Springfield Centre Whistleblowing procedure.
* Gifts from suppliers or associates of The Springfield Centre must be declared to the IMB / Headteacher, with the exception of “one off” token gifts from students or parents. Personal gifts from individual members of staff to students are inappropriate and could be misinterpreted, you should refer to the The Springfield Centre Gifts and Hospitality Policy.
* Staff will ensure that all information given to The Springfield Centre is correct. This should include:
  + Background information (including any past or current investigations/cautions related to conduct outside of school)
  + Qualifications
  + Professional experience
* Where there are any updates to the information provided to The Springfield Centre, the member of staff will advise the school as such as soon as reasonably practicable. Consideration will then be given to the nature and circumstances of the matter and whether this may have an impact on the member of staff’s employment.

**CONDUCT OUTSIDE WORK**

* Staff must not engage in conduct outside work which could seriously damage the reputation and standing of The Springfield Centre or the employee’s own reputation or the reputation of other members of the Trust or teaching community.
* This covers but is not limited to:
  + criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable;
  + conduct on social media and when using information technology
* Staff may undertake work outside The Springfield Centre, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the trust nor be to a level which may contravene the working time regulations or affect an individual's work performance.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

* Where staff have access to confidential information about pupils/students or their parents or carers, or staff.

* This information should never be:
  + Disclosed to anyone unless required by law or with consent from the relevant party or parties
  + Used to humiliate, embarrass or blackmail others
  + Used for a purpose other than what it was collected and intended for
* This does not overrule staff’s duty to report child protection concerns to the appropriate channel where staff believe that a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, as detailed in The Springfield Centre’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

* All staff need to recognise that failure to meet these standards of behaviour and conduct may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

**MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

This policy will be reviewed annually, but can be revised as needed. It will be approved by the IMB.

The IMB will ensure this Code of Conduct is implemented effectively, and will ensure appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard children and deal with any concerns.

**LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES**

This policy links with our policies on:

* Staff disciplinary procedures, which will be used if staff breach this code of conduct. It also sets out examples of what we will deem as misconduct and gross misconduct
* Staff grievance procedures
* Child protection and safeguarding
* Gifts and hospitality
* Social Media Policy
* Safer Working Practice Policy
* Electronic Communications Guidance
* Acceptable Use Agreement