

STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT



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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your new post at Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy

This guidance together with your statement of employment particulars and letter of appointment should provide you with most of the information you need relating to your employment; however please feel free to contact your Line Manager if you have any questions about your terms and conditions.

Your terms and conditions of employment are in accordance with the Academy's Pay Policy, which is available from the website or your Line Manager.

As you work in an Academy, your employer is the Directors. The Chief Operations Officer has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Central Services Team including staffing issues. If there are any issues which the Chief Operations Officer needs refer to the Directors during the course of your employment, you will be advised accordingly.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Staff Handbook and other policies and procedures in existence, which can be found on the website or from your Line Manager.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

This Academy is committed to preventing and eliminating all forms of unjustifiable and unlawful discrimination, both as an employer and a provider of education, pursuing equality of opportunity for all. We undertake to ensure that everyone has fair access to employment with us and will take all possible steps to help our staff implement this commitment.

Every employee has a right to be treated with respect and dignity and if at any time you feel that you have been treated unfairly or harassed you should speak to your Line Manager or the Chief Operations Officer.

Serious offences such as harassment will be treated as misconduct or gross misconduct.

SECTION 2 WORKING IN OUR LADY OF THE MAGNIFICAT MULTI-ACADEMY

SAFEGUARDING AND THE DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all staff are expected to share this commitment. You must familiarise yourself with all Academy procedures relating to safeguarding and child protection. Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding lead for further information.

Educational establishments play an important part in the prevention of abuse and neglect, through their own policies and procedures for safeguarding children, creating and maintaining a safe environment, and through the curriculum. They promote resilience in children by helping them to stay safe from harm and encouraging them to talk to someone if they have worries or concerns. Staff members play a crucial role in this process in noticing indications of abuse or neglect and in reporting concerns to Children's Social Care. But in rare circumstances staff in educational establishments have been found to be responsible for child abuse. Given their daily contact with children in a variety of situations, staff are also vulnerable to accusations of abuse, leading to allegations from children, parents or other staff members. The following employee guidance refers directly to such allegations and how they should be dealt with:

- Safe Working Practice for Staff working in Education Settings (September 2015)

A copy of this leaflet can be obtained from your Line Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Human Resources. It is essential that you familiarise yourself with the guidance in this leaflet.

In addition there is statutory guidance available which is relevant for all staff working with children: [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

All staff and volunteers working in regulated activity must be given appropriate safeguarding training, which includes safer working practice and management of allegations, which should be updated every three years.

Disclosure and Barring Service

All staff in Academies must have provided the school with a current DBS certificate (previously CRB) before taking up their post. Any convictions cautions or other information on the disclosure will have been fully risk assessed and employees with convictions or cautions will only be permitted to take up post with the express authority of the Chief Operations Officer.

You must immediately inform the Chief Operations Officer if, during the course of your employment, you are subject to any allegations of a criminal nature, any criminal proceedings or convictions or cautions in order that this risk assessment can be undertaken. Not all convictions will automatically exclude you from continuing in your role, however, failure to notify the Chief Operations Officer of any such occurrences may be viewed as a serious breach of conduct and be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

You must notify the Chief Operations Officer or Chair of Directors immediately of anything that affects your suitability to work with children, including pending court appearances, cautions etc.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK

Notification of Sickness Absence

You, or someone acting on your behalf, must notify your Line Manager, of your absence from work as soon as possible, the reason for it and the likely duration. If your absence is for more than one day, you should keep in regular contact with academy to advise of your likely return date.

If you return to work before the eighth consecutive day of sickness absence, including weekends, you will need to complete a sickness record form (self-certification). If you are absent for eight days or more, you must provide a medical certificate from your GP to cover all periods of absence thereafter.

GP's 'Fit Notes'

Since April 2010, the medical certification system allows a more proactive approach to managing a return to work. 'Fit Notes' allow for two options: the GP can either state that you are not fit for work or they can state that you may be fit for work taking into account advice on the note, such as amended duties, altered hours, workplace adaptations, etc. There is no longer a 'fit for work' option on the form.

On Return to Work

You must ensure your Line Manager is aware that you have returned to work. It is our practice to meet with colleagues returning to work and to complete a sickness record form.

Sickness Allowances

Subject to the provisions of your conditions of service, you will be entitled to receive contractual

sick pay on the following basis:

Teaching Staff – in accordance with the Burgundy Book (national arrangements)

- During 1st year of service - full pay for 25 working days and, after completing four months' service, half pay for 50 working days.
- During 2nd year of service - full pay for 50 working days and half pay for 50 working days;
- During 3rd year of service - full pay for 75 working days and half pay for 75 working days;
- During 4th and successive years - full pay for 100 working days and half pay for 100 working days.

Support Staff - in accordance with the Green Book (national arrangements)

- During 1st year of service - full pay for one month and, after completing four months' service, half pay for two months;
- During 2nd year of service - full pay for two months and half pay for two months;
- During 3rd year of service - full pay for four months and half pay for four months;
- During 4th and 5th year of service - full pay for five months and half pay for five months.
- After 5 years' service - full pay for six months and half pay for six months.

If you are not entitled to sick pay as described above, or if you are sick for a long period and your entitlement runs out, you will be informed of this at the time.

If you are absent due to illness, the Academy has a right to seek further medical information, either through your medical practitioner or through referral to an Occupational Health practitioner, who may ask you to undergo a medical examination and may refuse to allow you to return to work without a satisfactory result of such a referral.

WORKING TIME AND HOLIDAYS

Teachers

Your working time is in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, and as directed by the Chief Operations Officer

You may not take holiday during term-time without prior written permission from the Chief Operations Officer or Board of Directors.

Support Staff working term-time only

Your working time will be in accordance with your Contract of Employment and as directed by the Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer. (Your salary includes an element of holiday pay pro rata to the annual leave entitlement of a full-time, full year employee.)

You may not take holiday during term-time without prior written permission from the Chief Operations Officer or Chair of Directors.

Support Staff working 52 weeks

Your working time will be in accordance with your Statement of Employment Particulars, and as directed by your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer

Your annual leave entitlement is 25 days. An additional 5 days annual leave is granted after 5 years of service.

Part-time employees receive a pro-rata leave entitlement.

Requests for leave must be made to your Line Manager as far in advance as possible. You are required to take the majority of your annual leave during school holiday periods. Reasonable requests will usually be agreed but you must remember that you may be restricted if you seek leave at particularly popular times or when there is a high level of work.

The annual leave year runs from 1st April to 31st March. Your annual leave should be taken in the leave year to which it applies. However, there are provisions available for you to be able to automatically carry forward up to 5 days leave (pro rata for part-time employees) from one year to the next. Payments in lieu of leave not taken are not made.

RESIGNATION

If you wish to resign from your post, you must give the following minimum notice in writing to the Chief Operations Officer:

Teachers – in accordance with the Burgundy Book (national arrangements):

To leave at the end of the Autumn term: resignation must be received by 31st October

To leave at the end of the Spring term: resignation must be received by 28th February

To leave at the end of the Summer term: resignation must be received by 31st May.

Support Staff – in accordance with your individual contract of employment

To leave at any time in the academic year, unless your individual contract states otherwise you are required to give a minimum of one month's notice. For salary grades SO1/2 - two months, PO1 and above – three months.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – ALL STAFF

You may from time to time need to ask the Chief Operations Officer for paid or unpaid leave of absence. There are arrangements covering time off for such things as jury service, maternity and paternity leave, etc.

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

You may be entitled to travelling and subsistence expenses related to approved journeys. Details are available from your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer.

TRADE UNIONS

You have the right to be a member of any Trade Union or none if you wish. If you are a member you can take part in its activities at appropriate times and seek election to office or hold office in the union.

The unions currently recognised by the Academy are:

Teaching:

National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) National Education Union (incorporating ATL and NUT)

VOICE

The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

Support Staff:

Unison
GMB

CONCERNS / GRIEVANCES

If you have any issues about your employment which are causing you concern, you are advised to raise these directly with your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer in the first instance. However, you may also seek advice from your union or Human Resources.

OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and procedures relating to your employment including: Managing Sickness Absence, Grievance and Harassment, Disciplinary, Whistleblowing, Capability, Appraisal, Redundancies, Retirement, etc. are available on request from the website or your Line Manager.

PENSIONS

If you require information about your pension including contribution rates, benefit estimates or scheme details please contact the following:

Teachers:

The pension scheme for teachers is administered by Teachers' Pensions and many of your questions can be answered through accessing their website at www.teacherspensions.co.uk or telephoning 0845 606 6166.

Support Staff:

The Local Government Pension Scheme for this Academy is administered by Worcestershire County Council at County Hall. The Pensions Section can be contacted by telephoning the main County Hall switchboard on 01905 763763. General information about the Local Government Pension Scheme can be found on the website at <https://lgpsmember.org/>.

USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Our Human Resources advice is provided by Liberata, HR Consultancy for Schools working on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The HR Duty Adviser number for all queries relating to employment is 01905 947445.

Any queries in relation to your contract / hours etc. should be referred to School Employee Services by contacting WCCSES@liberata.com or 01905 676223; Pay queries should be referred to Payroll at WCCSchools@liberata.com or 01905 676498

If you have problems logging in to your Mercury Employee Self-Service account or have forgotten your password, please email Passwordresets@liberata.com, giving your name, payroll number and

the name of the school. Setting up memorable information in your account will mean that you can automatically set up a new password yourself.

If you are a member of a Trade Union, you can also contact your school or local representative for advice on employment matters.

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SECTION 3 - CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Code describes the standards of conduct and behaviour expected from our staff and any staff seconded or engaged from other organisations to undertake work in this Academy. It also highlights some types of behaviour or conduct which might be considered incompatible with being an employee here. It is intended to help you by describing the standards expected of you and has been approved by the Board of Directors following consultation with the appropriate Trade Unions. Please take time to read it and ensure your conduct meets these requirements. If you are at all uncertain about what is expected please seek further clarification from your Line Manager or the Chief Operations Officer so that you do not unwittingly contravene this Code or otherwise act against the Academy's interests.
- 1.2 Contravening or failing to act within the spirit of the Code or behaving in a manner which could bring the good name of the Academy into disrepute, whether or not within the workplace or working time, might be seen as a breach of discipline and could lead to action being taken against you under the appropriate procedure.
- 1.3 While workers who are not employees of this Academy are expected to comply with the spirit of the Code, any action that may be taken in response to a breach will depend on the precise nature of their working relationship with this Academy.
- 1.4 This code relates to all staff working for Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy. Teachers must be aware that there are also published *Teachers' Standards* and are advised to familiarise themselves with the requirements of these.

2. Guiding principles

- 2.1 As an employee of this Academy, you should put the well-being, development and progress of children and young people first. You should recognise that you are in a position to influence children and young people through your slightest actions, comments or behaviour.
- 2.2 To the public you are a representative of the Academy. You are expected to maintain the highest standards of professional competence, knowledge, integrity, confidentiality, financial propriety and personal conduct. Contact with all members of the community, including parents and outside visitors, should be courteous, efficient and impartial to all groups and individuals. You must also familiarise yourself with and adhere to other policies in place for the Academy or in your particular role and you should comply with all reasonable requirements or instructions from the Chief Operations Officer
- 2.3 It is not appropriate for you when working within your role as an employee to oppose the stated aims and policies of the Academy or to undermine the performance of its duties and responsibilities. It is important for all employees to present a unified image to the public.

- 2.4 You should ensure that your relationships with your fellow employees and with pupils are always conducted in a professional and courteous manner; you should not censure other colleagues or criticise their work in the hearing of a pupil or parent/carer. It is not acceptable to use sarcasm or make jokes at the expense of pupils, embarrass or humiliate pupils, or discriminate against or favour pupils. It is also not acceptable to discuss personal or sexual issues with pupils outside of agreed curriculum parameters.
- 2.5 It is not acceptable for you to publicly criticise or blame management, colleagues or the Academy through any medium including internet 'blogs', websites or social networking tools such as Facebook or Twitter and you must be aware that the laws governing defamation, breach of copyright, etc. apply equally to on-line as to other forms of communications. Offensive, defamatory, discriminatory or otherwise inappropriate comments will not be tolerated and may constitute a disciplinary and/or criminal offence, as could the disclosure/publication of any confidential or personal information about the Academy, its staff, pupils or other members of the community.
- 2.6 It is incumbent on you to ensure that you are aware of and comply with any relevant rules and instructions which pertain to your particular job, including the Teachers' Standards, Keeping Children Safe in Education, financial instructions etc. The Code cannot cover every situation but will be subject to reasonable interpretation. Any disagreement involving the interpretation or application of the Code as it applies to you should be discussed with your Line Manager or the Chief Operations Officer in the first instance. However, if you feel the Code is being applied unreasonably you may be able to seek redress through the Grievance Procedure.
3. Staff / Student Relationships
- 3.1 You are expected to treat pupils with dignity and fairness, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a person in a position of trust. You should comply with safe working practices, outlined in the guidance document "Safe Working Practice for Staff Working in Education Settings".
- 3.2 You must not communicate personally with students via email, mobile phone or internet other than on school-related matters in line with school policy.
- 3.3 You must not arrange to meet students outside of the school day or off the school site at any time without the express permission of the Chief Operations Officer.
- 3.4 Any physical contact with pupils should be in accordance with any agreed school procedures, such as the intimate care policy or positive physical intervention. Any inappropriate physical contact, such as tickling, rough play, cuddling or sitting a child on your lap may be viewed as misconduct and lead to disciplinary procedures, dependant on circumstances.

4. Personal interests

(see also Notes 1 and 2 below)

- 4.1 The interests of the Academy or the way you do your job must not be influenced by personal interests or those of relatives, friends or membership of external organisations or societies. There should be no grounds for suspicion that you are using your position with or knowledge of the Academy for personal gain or that you could be influenced by improper motives. If you belong to outside organisations, including voluntary organisations, there must be no conflict with your job or other Academy interests. You should advise the Chief Operations Officer in writing about anything which could give this impression.
- 4.2 For staff who have responsibility for placing orders and Academy expenditure, please see more detailed guidance in Section 20.

5. Private work

- 5.1 Academy premises, equipment, working time or other resources must not be used to undertake private work.
- 5.2 The Academy needs to be aware if its employees undertake private work or voluntary activities in their own time to ensure that there is no conflict of interests with the Academy and to meet its obligations under Health and Safety legislation. Therefore, to protect yourself and the Academy from potential criticism you should not put yourself in a position where there is an actual or perceived conflict of interests. You should be aware that outside work or activity, whether or not you receive payment, could reduce your ability to safely and effectively carry out your employment with the Academy, e.g. through tiredness, and would be considered unacceptable.
- 5.3 You must advise your Line Manager before engaging in any other work especially if it could reasonably be seen to conflict with your employment with the Academy or lead to misunderstanding or criticism (for example, private tutoring of students from your school).
- 5.4 You must not undertake private work for any individual, organisation, department or establishment which otherwise would be undertaken as part of your normal duties. Any charge raised as a result of undertaking work within another school or other establishment whilst in your normal working hours should be paid to the Academy.
- 5.5 You must not undertake private work when on sick leave without the express knowledge and prior written approval of the Chief Operations Officer and subject to appropriate medical advice.
- 5.6 You must not undertake private work for any school or establishment during a period of paid leave or suspension.

6. Expressing concern about irregularities and tackling malpractice

- 6.1 If you feel there is something seriously wrong at work please tell an appropriate person as a 'voice of concern'. It might be, for example, the conduct of another employee, the way a contractor is behaving, a work practice, something that is endangering the safety of pupils or staff. You might be the first to notice it and your intervention could stop things getting worse.
- 6.2 No matter how reticent you may feel, you should raise any serious concern - e.g. a suspicion of fraud or corruption or reasonable belief that a child or adult's health, safety or well-being are in danger - with the Chief Operations Officer so that potentially serious problems or malpractice can be addressed without undue delay. If this is not appropriate, then you should contact either the Chair of Directors or HR Consultancy for Schools. If you do raise a genuine concern in good faith all reasonable steps will be taken to respect your confidence and protect you from possible reprisals (see Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy).
- 6.3 The Academy takes this issue very seriously and will investigate and address any problems genuinely raised. However, any frivolous, malicious or mischievous use of the Confidential Reporting Policy will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter.

7. Copyright

- 7.1 You should be aware that 'intellectual property' such as software, ideas, documents, etc. created during your employment belongs to the Academy. All files, materials, the media upon which they are located and all software programmes or packages which are utilised or developed solely for or in connection with your job remain the property of the Academy.

8. Confidentiality

- 8.1 You may sometimes acquire information at work which has not been made public or is confidential. Examples include information about a pupil or family, a colleague, information on tenders or costs, the proceedings of confidential meetings.
- 8.2 You must ensure that sensitive and/or confidential information is properly secured and safeguarded at all times especially if being transported in paper or electronic formats. Particular care must be taken with information stored on portable electronic media such as laptops and memory devices which are often targeted for theft due to their high intrinsic value.
- 8.3 Confidential information which comes into your possession must not be used for personal benefit or divulged to other parties except in the proper course of duty, for example to other professionals working with the same child. If you have any doubt whether or not disclosure is appropriate, you must check with the Line Manager, DSL or Chief Operations Officer before releasing confidential information.

- 8.4 Some information can be extremely valuable in business and commerce and its publication loss or misuse could seriously disadvantage the Academy and its employees. Therefore, it is important that you do not, deliberately or inadvertently, pass on information, including software, during or after your employment with the Academy, to anyone who has no right to receive it. You must not discuss, disclose, publicise or use such information for your own or anyone else's personal interest or advantage.
- 8.5 You must decline any approaches or offers made asking for information which could be detrimental to, or help others to gain a contract, grant or any other advantage from the Academy and/or its employees, e.g. a potential contractor could offer a financial reward for information leading to the award of a major contract. Approaches or offers of this kind must be declared to the Chief Operations Officer without delay.
- 8.6 You must not criticise the Academy, its policies or staff in open media such as internet 'blogs', websites, social networking sites, etc. where it may be seen by parents, children or others in the community.
- 9. Contact with the media**
- 9.1 Unless you are properly authorised to speak with, write or give interviews to the media you should refer any enquiries from the media on work related matters to the Chief Operations Officer
- 10. Information Technology, Social Media and Data Protection**
- 10.1 Everyone using computing equipment has a duty of care to use it according to prescribed arrangements, e.g. to avoid introducing computer viruses, to comply with the Data Protection Act, General Data Protection Regulations and to safeguard and ensure the security of information.
- 10.2 You must familiarise yourself with the Academy's ICT policies, including use of the internet. In particular, all use of the internet and email facilities must be authorised, legal, appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of the Academy's policies. Personal use of any facilities – including laptops – must be authorised and only undertaken at times deemed appropriate by the Chief Operations Officer.

Users shall not use the internet or email for the following:

- to knowingly break the law
- to fail to comply with existing Academy policy
- to compromise the integrity of any network of system
- to access, display or transmit any kind of sexually explicit material or any offensive or discriminatory material of any kind
- to make unauthorised contact with outside bodies
- to download software or play games
- to bet or gamble
- to disclose private or confidential information.

Failure to comply with the policies in force or any unauthorised use of such facilities will be dealt with in accordance with relevant disciplinary procedure.

Employees should also take account of policies on cyber bullying.

- 10.3 Employees should also be aware when they are using personal IT equipment for undertaking school related business that the same rules apply. Please refer to Lourdes IT for a copy of the full policy on appropriate use of IT.
- 10.4 You must not photograph pupils using your own photographic equipment or mobile phone.
- 10.5 You should not use social media in any way that might bring your professional status or your school into disrepute or undermine the policies or ethos of the school. You must not share confidential information or mention specific students or members of staff on a social media site. You should not accept pupils as 'friends' or 'followers' and should not 'follow' or have any personal connections with pupils on any social media or other internet sites. If you are a 'friend' of a parent of a pupil at your school, you should be particularly careful not to share information about pupils, staff or working practices. You should ensure that full privacy settings are applied to all your social media accounts.
11. Gifts, inducements, hospitality and sponsorship(see also Notes 1 and 2 below)
 - 11.1 You must not accept any commission, discount, allowance, direct or indirect profit, inducement, payment, perk or benefit in connection with any professional work undertaken, other than any fee recoverable on behalf of the Academy.
 - 11.2 Minor gifts and hospitality are sometimes part of the normal courtesies of life: the parent of a pupil may offer a modest gift, especially at Christmas or as a token of appreciation, and in an office situation simple items such as diaries and calendars are often distributed as advertising matter. As a guideline, any gift or hospitality with a value of £25.00 or more is highly unlikely to be viewed as a 'token'. With the exception of these 'tokens' and any special schemes (e.g. travel or discount schemes) arranged by the Academy, all gifts, vouchers, fees, special discounts, rewards or preferential treatment must be refused. Collection of reward card points such as Nectar and Clubcard on a personal account in respect of school or council purchases is a benefit in kind which should be reported to HMRC and subjected to deduction of Income Tax. In situations where refusal is difficult or might offend you must inform your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer who will decide on the appropriate action.
 - 11.3 Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor any activity or make a donation to the Academy, the basic principles relating to personal interests and the acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply.
 - 11.4 You must not give gifts to particular pupils other than as part of an agreed reward strategy or given to all pupils equally, with the knowledge and permission of your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer

12. Use of Academy resources and equipment

- 12.1 Facilities, equipment, vehicles, materials and other resources provided by the Academy for use in your work must not be used for any other purpose without permission or appropriate payment, e.g. photocopying, private telephone calls. Mobile telephones are provided exclusively for business use and must not be used to make private calls. In this context a call 'home' to advise that you have been unavoidably delayed because of work would not be considered a private call.

13. Transporting Pupils

- 13.1 Any school policy on transporting pupils should be adhered to at all times. Circumstances where it is appropriate to transport pupils, e.g. for sports' matches, should always take place with the full knowledge and consent of the Chief Operations Officer and the pupils' parents/carers.
- 13.2 Any legal requirements must be adhered to, such as ensuring the vehicle is roadworthy, business insurance is in place, seat belts are worn, car seats are used for younger children and the maximum capacity is not exceeded.
- 13.3 Wherever possible, there should always be at least one adult additional to the driver as an escort and children should be seated in the back of the vehicle.
- 13.4 It is inappropriate for adults to offer lifts to pupils outside their normal working duties, unless this has been previously arranged with the parent/carer and the Chief Operations Officer is aware of the arrangement.

14. Overseas travel on official business

- 14.1 Any proposal to travel overseas on official business must be approved by the Directors before the travel takes place.

15. Equality issues

- 15.1 All members of the community, including pupils, families and other employees have a right to be treated fairly and with dignity. You must make yourself aware of and comply with the Academy's Equality and Diversity Policies and procedures.

16. Political neutrality / extremism

- 16.1 All staff have a responsibility to ensure that they act appropriately in terms of their behaviour, the views they express (in particular political views) and the use of school resources at all times.
- 16.2 You must follow the school guidance and must not allow your own personal / political opinions to influence your work. In particular, you must not behave or act in any way that undermines fundamental British Values as defined within the Counter-Terrorism and

Security Act 2015 as *democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect; tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.*

16.3 You must not express radical or extremist views; promote or permit the voicing of views or incitement of any action in support of extremism, terrorism, radicalisation or any prohibited organisations.

17. Standards of appearance

17.1 The Academy does not impose particular dress standards, but staff are expected to present a reasonable and professional appearance and to dress appropriately to the circumstances within their working environment, bearing in mind that you are working with children and young people. Dress should not be offensive, revealing or sexually provocative and should not display political or other contentious slogans.

17.2 Where uniform or protective clothing is issued it must be worn as required when at work or representing the Academy. When wearing uniform or other items which identify you as an employee of the Academy you must maintain appropriate standards of conduct whether or not on duty, e.g. when travelling to and from work.

18. Relatives and close personal relationships within the workplace

18.1 In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias you should endeavour not be directly involved in the appointment, promotion, discipline or other employment decision relating to another employee to whom you are related or with whom you have a close personal relationship. If a situation arises in which you feel you may be in such a position, please seek the advice of your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer in the first instance or Human Resources.

18.2 If you work in close proximity with other employees or pupils to whom you are related or have a close personal connection you must maintain a strictly professional relationship at work. You should also be aware that if any relationship leads to disruption in the workplace, unacceptable conduct or performance or situations involving undue favouritism or detriment, action will be taken under the appropriate procedure which could lead to you being redeployed or your contract terminated.

19. Smoke free environment

19.1 All Academy buildings, workplaces and vehicles are smoke free areas. Since July 2007, it has been against the law to smoke in workplaces; failure to comply is a criminal offence.

20. Drugs and alcohol

20.1 Employees must not take drugs, alcohol or any other substance before work, during a break or at lunch time that is capable of causing their behaviour, judgement or performance at work to be affected. This is particularly important for employees who drive, operate machinery, have responsibility for children or vulnerable adults and who come into contact with members of the public and/or visitors. (N.B. It is equally inappropriate for those working in close proximity to children and vulnerable adults to have alcohol on their breath even though this may not amount to drunkenness.)

21. Health and Safety

- 21.1 Unsafe working can endanger you, your colleagues, pupils and members of the public. You must familiarise yourself with the Health and Safety Policy and guidelines for your particular work. You must follow the rules, codes and safe practices they describe including reporting any accidents, incidents or near misses you have at work.

22. Essential training

- 22.1 You are expected to make every effort to comply with reasonable requests to attend training which is a statutory requirement or essential for your role.

23. Criminal charges, cautions and convictions

- 23.1 You must advise your Chief Operations Officer immediately if you are charged with or cautioned or convicted of any criminal offence whilst you are an employee of the academy. While such proceedings will not necessarily affect your employment, the Chief Operations Officer needs to be sure there are no implications for the Academy, its reputation, safety of children or in relation to the role you undertake.

- 23.2 You must also advise Chief Operations Officer immediately if you have been arrested or appeared in court and released on bail in circumstances where bail conditions have been applied which could have consequences for your work, e.g. you are constrained from having contact with children. If you are in any doubt about whether you should report bail conditions, especially where safeguarding could be an issue, you must discuss it with Chief Operations Officer so that any concerns can be addressed from the outset. Failure to report such conditions would be considered as serious misconduct and could potentially lead to breach of bail.

24. Specific standards for staff with responsibility for expenditure

24.1 Personal interests:

- 24.1.1 The interests of the Academy must not be undermined by personal interests. The way you do your job must not be influenced by personal interests or those of relatives, friends or membership of external organisations or societies. There should be no grounds for suspicion that you are using your position with or knowledge of the Academy for personal gain or that you could be influenced by improper motives. If you belong to outside organisations, including voluntary organisations, there must be no conflict with your job.

- 24.1.2 All orders, contracts and grants must be awarded on merit following fair competition. No favour should be shown because of personal interests and no part of the community should be discriminated against.

- 24.1.3 You must advise your Line Manager in writing about anything which could give the impression that you may be acting for personal gain, financial or otherwise, or in the interests of another person or organisation; or you are involved as an employee in matters which might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, your spouse, partner, relative, a close friend or any person with whom you have a close association, e.g. if any of those persons
- hold an office or employment with
 - have any connection or influence with
 - have any financial interest in
- any company or organisation doing or seeking to do business with, or requesting grants or other funding from the Academy.
- 24.1.4 You should avoid being involved as an employee in matters which might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself (or the persons, companies or organisations referred to above) so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the Academy or public interest.
- 24.1.5 You must advise your Line Manager of any personal dealings of a business or private nature with existing or potential suppliers, consultants or contractors who you know (or could reasonably be expected to know) to have dealings with the Academy.
- 24.1.6 If you engage or supervise contractors or consultants on behalf of the Academy or have any other official relationship with them you must advise your Line Manager, prior to any contractual relationship beginning or work being undertaken, if you have or intend to have any private or domestic relationship with them or any of their employees.
- 24.2 Gifts, inducements, hospitality and sponsorship:(see also Notes 1 and 2 below)
- 24.2.1 See information in 11.2 regarding the acceptance of gifts. As a guideline, a gift with a value of more than £25 is unlikely to be seen as only a 'token', so needs to be referred to your Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer
- 24.2.2 Offers of hospitality, even if of a seemingly minor nature, must be treated with particular caution as they can leave both individuals and the Academy open to all manner of allegations of impropriety. The timing of offers of hospitality, e.g. in relation to purchasing, the award of contracts, granting of applications or other decisions, should be considered equally to the generosity of the hospitality offered. Accepting hospitality must be justified in the public interest, e.g. when there is a genuine need to represent the Academy. You must inform the Line Manager or Chief Operations Officer of an invitation or offer of hospitality before it is accepted.

24.3 Personal purchases:

24.3.1 You should be aware of possible conflicts of interest when you buy goods or use the services of firms which have dealings with the Academy and follow any Academy procedures relating to the disclosure of any such transactions. You should neither seek, because of your position, nor accept, because of an organisation's dealings with the Academy, preferential rates, reductions or any other favourable treatment in the purchase of goods and services. This does not apply to generally available schemes or discount schemes arranged by the Academy for all staff.

24.4 Procurement of goods and services and disposal of property: (see also note 2 below)

24.4.1 Procurement procedures must be strictly adhered to and you must not accept any inducement or preferential treatment if you are responsible for procuring goods or services for the Academy or disposing of surplus property.

25. Conduct and Performance

25.1 Unacceptable behaviour and/or failure to maintain satisfactory standards of conduct or performance will lead to action being taken against you under the appropriate procedure. This includes specifically the failure to behave at all times in accordance with the Academy's stated values.

25.2 You must ensure you understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct, the Safe Working Practice for Staff guidance and any terms and conditions, rules, standards and requirements that apply to you and your job (see also note 2 below). Any of the examples of unacceptable behaviour listed below may be considered as misconduct or gross misconduct depending on the relevance to your role, your seniority, the seriousness of the act and particular circumstances. Those underlined normally will be considered as gross misconduct. The list is not exhaustive and other unacceptable behaviour not specifically listed nevertheless may be considered as misconduct or gross misconduct:

- (a) any form of unjustifiable discrimination, harassment, threatening or bullying behaviour, e.g. on the grounds of race, sex/gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, religion or belief; whether or not the subject of current legislation;
- (b) any physical, emotional or sexual abuse of a child or other vulnerable person
- (c) possession, displaying, viewing or downloading of offensive or extremist materials, playing or downloading games, accessing 'unacceptable' websites, e.g. websites of a sexual nature, gambling, betting or gaming, in the workplace or via any portable device, e.g. laptop, mass storage, which is the property of the Academy and has been provided in connection with the postholder's work;
- (d) undertaking private activities during working hours;

- (e) unpunctuality, misuse of time and time recording, unauthorised absence from work;
- (f) refusing to comply with reasonable orders and instructions;
- (g) deliberately causing damage to Academy property;
- (h) harming or endangering other persons or property, e.g. by contravening safety rules;
- (i) neglect of duty/lack of due care or diligence, disruptive behaviour, poor attitude;
- (j) fighting, threatening or actual violence towards, physical assault or abuse of another person whilst at work (NOTE: this does not include reasonable physical restraint necessarily carried out in the course of duty);
- (k) theft, unauthorised removal, misappropriation, improper or unauthorised use of Academy or other property, systems (including telephones, IT, email and internet), vehicles, equipment, name or other resources. This may include loss by failing to properly secure or safeguard;
- (l) failure to report criminal convictions, particularly those which may be relevant to the type of work undertaken, e.g. driving convictions where the work necessitates driving on school business, indecent assault where working with children or vulnerable adults;
- (m) fraudulent or misleading practices and/or omissions in connection with official duties, e.g. deliberately falsifying Academy documents, reports, etc.;
- (n) fraudulent or false claims for payment of salary, expenses and/or allowances, etc. or seeking financial gain by deception;
- (o) acts involving bribery or corruption;
- (p) any action for which it would be appropriate for the Academy as an employer to take legal proceedings (irrespective of whether such proceedings are taken);
- (q) sexual misconduct at work;
- (r) wilfully breaching any Academy policy or procedure;
- (s) drunkenness, being unable to carry out duties through the influence of any substances including drugs, whether or not prescribed, and alcohol, or for any other avoidable reason. (N.B. It is equally inappropriate for those hosting visitors or working in close proximity to children and vulnerable adults to have alcohol on their breath even though this may not amount to drunkenness.);

- (t) possession, buying or selling of weapons, illegal substances or materials at work;
- (u) any breach of trust or security in respect of information or procedures;
- (v) obtaining or attempting to obtain access to any information (including information held or stored by electronic means) to which the employee is not entitled;
- (w) any action which may bring the good name of the Academy into disrepute;
- (x) as an employee, public opposition to the stated aims and policies of the Academy, criticism or blame of Academy management or colleagues, through any medium including on-line, such internet 'blogs', websites, social networking sites, etc.;
- (y) any action unconnected with work which brings in to question your suitability as an employee of the Academy;
- (z) failing to report serious misconduct, aiding or inciting another employee to undertake any of the above actions or other act of wrongdoing.

Note 1:

Personal interests as set out in paragraph 4 (e.g. in contracts/procurement), other potential conflicts of interest and any offer of gifts and/or hospitality as set out in paragraph 11 or paragraph 24, other than of a minor 'token' nature, are to be notified in writing to Chief Operations Officer

Note 2:

Under the Bribery Act 2010 it is a criminal offence if a person fails to prevent bribery, bribes another person with the intention of obtaining or retaining a business or a business advantage, or receives a bribe, whether or not unwittingly.