

Safer working practices code of conduct for adults

To be reviewed: 09/22 (or earlier as a result of changes in legislation and statutory recommendations)

**This code of conduct is available on school intranet and website www.stvin.com*

Our 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' and the DfE's 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Educational Settings' which is available on the school's website. Everyone must also read part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2021).

This code of conduct aims to support adults so that they do not work in a manner which might lead to an allegation against them. Equally it aims to reduce the opportunity for any adult intent on grooming or harming a young person. 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. 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. In addition, **everyone** has a responsibility to escalate their concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (Liverpool Careline 0151 233 3700) if they feel that safeguarding concerns they have raised about a child or adult working at the school are not being addressed by the school.

Code of Conduct:

- If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, abused or neglected you **must share your concern immediately** both verbally and in writing with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or in their absence, a member of the School Leadership Team (SLT). Always listen carefully to the child and record 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 Principal or DSL. Concerns regarding the Principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors or LADO.
- Anyone can make a referral about their concerns for child to Liverpool Careline (tel: 0151 233 3700)

You should:

- dress appropriate to your role ensuring that clothing is not likely to be viewed as offensive or revealing and is absent of any political or other contentious slogans or images.
- act as an appropriate role model, treating all members of the school community with respect and tolerance.
- ensure that gifts given or received are recorded and discussed with your Line Manager.
- respect confidentiality unless sharing information is appropriate to ensuring welfare.
- adhere to the school's policies, particularly those relating to safeguarding – including child protection, behaviour, attendance, physical intervention, intimate care, anti-bullying, equal opportunities, health and safety and e-safety (acceptable user policy).
- report any behaviour or situations which you may feel give rise to a complaint or misunderstanding in respect of your own actions. Also share situations with your Line Manager if you feel your actions may be considered to be outside this code of conduct.
- share with your Line Manager or Principal 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. Your intervention may allow for their practice to be supported and developed and/or prevent a child from being harmed.

Never:

- make, encourage or ignore others making personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate any member of the school community.
- use your position to intimidate, bully, humiliate, coerce or undermine any member of the school community. This includes shouting at a child to punish them.
- develop 'personal' or sexual relationships' with children and young people including making sexual remarks or having inappropriate sexual banter.

- 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 etc. or meet a young person out of school unless part of a planned school activity with the knowledge of your Line Manager.
- have conversations on social networking sites that make reference to children, parents or other colleagues or are derogatory about the school. Avoid contact with parents through social networking sites and declare any friendships/relationships to your Line Manager. Avoid any statements on social networking sites that might cause someone to question your suitability to act as a role model to young people.
- use personal equipment to photograph children (always use the school's equipment) and ensure any photographs are only stored on the designated secure place on the school's network and not on portable equipment.
- use your personal mobile phone in areas used 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 particular responsibilities.
- 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 trips should be planned and with the knowledge of your Line Manager. Unforeseen events should be reported to your Line Manager. It is good practice to have another adult to act as an escort during the journey
- have physical contact with young people that might be misconstrued or considered indecent or harmful. Ensure you are always 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 with a child that was needed to control or restrain a child should be the minimum required.

All school employees should have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under this code of conduct. It aims to help them to avoid poor working practices that *may* lead to their behaviour being *investigated* and the *consideration* of disciplinary procedures.