



STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

This policy applies to all staff in all departments of St Hugh's School including the Early Years and Boarding. 'Staff' in this context applies to all paid employees as well as volunteers, governors and contract workers.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As an employer, St Hugh's School is required to set out a Code of Conduct for all St Hugh's School staff. [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)
- 1.2 All staff at our school are expected to actively follow our vision, aims and values.
- 1.3 Staff are to have regard to the character of St Hugh's School and not do anything (be this on or off line) in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interests of our school at any time, at work or at home. Staff should be aware that a failure to comply with the following Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

2. Purpose, Scope And Principles

- 2.1 This Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the standards of behaviour all staff are expected to observe. Our staff are in a unique position of influence and must adhere to behaviour that models the highest possible standards for all the pupils within the school. As a member of our school community, each employee has an individual responsibility to maintain their reputation and the reputation of the school, whether inside or outside working hours.

3. Setting An Example

- 3.1 All staff who work at St Hugh's set examples of behaviour and conduct which can be copied by pupils. Staff must therefore avoid using inappropriate or offensive language at all times.
- 3.2 All staff must, therefore, demonstrate the highest standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils/students to do the same.
- 3.3 All staff must also avoid putting themselves at risk of allegations of abusive or unprofessional conduct.

3.4 This Code helps all staff to understand what behaviour is and is not acceptable.

4. Safeguarding Pupils

4.1 ALL Staff have a duty to safeguard pupils.

4.2 The duty to safeguard pupils includes the duty to report concerns about a pupil to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection.

4.3 The St Hugh's DSL is Natalie Wallis (Deputy Head Pastoral and Staff). The school has 2 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL). Ann-Marie Hainsworth is also Head of Early Years, and Mr Wyld is the Headmaster.

4.4 Staff are provided with copies of the school's [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) and [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK Part 1 and Annex A](#) on joining the school, as well as other policies, training and procedures related to Safeguarding as listed in the [Induction Documentation 2025](#). Our [Induction policy](#) gives further details. Copies of these are available on the Shared Google Drive, on the school website, or from the DSL. There are also posters with QR codes in the Staff Room. All staff are given updated policies and guidance annually or more frequently if changes occur.

4.5 Staff **must not** demean or undermine pupils, their parents or carers, or colleagues.

4.6 Staff must take the utmost care of pupils under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

4.7 Staff **must not** use their personal mobile phone as a camera. Any photos or video **must** be taken using school equipment which can be borrowed from the office. All photos and videos must be stored on the school computer network.

4.8 In school all staff will not use their personal mobile phones when pupils are present. This not only discourages staff from taking photos using their own device but also protects staff from any malicious complaints about the use of phones in school. It also supports our policy of not allowing the children to have mobile phones in school. Personal mobile phones are **strictly forbidden from being used in the Early Years setting**. Please refer to our [E-Safety policy](#).

4.9 Away from school, on trips and residential or sports fixtures for example, staff are supported in using their mobile phones to keep in touch with parents, contact the school or emergency services. This is part of their 'Duty of Care'. However staff are reminded that they must not take photos using a personal device **at any time**.

4.10 Staff should always conduct themselves in a way to avoid placing pupils or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a pupil. For example, where there exists 1:1 tuition - Learning Support, Music lessons, Sports coaching (with the possible allegations of touching a child); conveying a pupil in a car.

4.11 Any physical restraint is only permissible when a child is in imminent danger of inflicting an injury on himself/herself or on another, and then only as a last resort when all efforts to diffuse the situation have failed. Another member of staff should, if possible, be present to act as a witness. All incidents of the use of physical restraint should be recorded in writing and reported

immediately to the DSL/Head who will decide what to do next. Where this relates to the school's nursery/EYFS setting, parents will be informed of any physical restraint used on their child the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable. See [Restraint of Pupils Policy](#)

- 4.12 Where exercises or procedures need to be demonstrated, extreme caution should be used if the demonstration involves contact with pupils and, wherever possible, contact should be avoided. It is acknowledged that some staff, for example, those who teach PE and games, or who offer music tuition, will, on occasions, have to initiate physical contact with pupils in order to support a pupil so they can perform a task safely, to demonstrate the use of a particular piece of equipment/instrument or assist them with an exercise. This should be done with the pupil's agreement. Contact under these circumstances should be for the minimum time necessary to complete the activity and take place in an open environment. Staff should remain sensitive to any discomfort expressed verbally or nonverbally by the child.
- 4.13 It is inadvisable for a teacher to give a lift in a car to a pupil alone. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. If there are exceptional circumstances that make unaccompanied transportation of pupils unavoidable, the journey should be made known to a senior member of staff prior to starting the journey.
- 4.14 Action if a pupil is missing: See [Missing pupils](#)
- 4.15 All staff must make use of the [Low-Level-Concerns-Policy](#) for reporting any matters of concern to them.

5. Pupil Development

- 5.1 Staff must comply with school policies and procedures that support the well-being and development of pupils.
- 5.2 Staff must cooperate and collaborate with colleagues and with external agencies where necessary to support the development of pupils.
- 5.3 Staff must follow reasonable instructions that support the development of pupils.

6. Honesty and Integrity

- 6.1 Staff must maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes the handling and claiming of money and the use of school property and facilities.
- 6.2 All staff must comply with the [Bribery Act 2010 - GOV.UK](#). 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 our Whistleblowing procedure for schools.
- 6.3 Due to recent changes in Anti-Bribery laws, any gifts from parents, suppliers or associates of the school with a value greater than £25 must be declared to the Headmaster, or to the Chair of Governors if the Headmaster is the recipient.

7. Conduct Outside Work

- 7.1 Staff must not engage in conduct outside work which could seriously damage the reputation and standing of the school or the employee's own reputation or the reputation of other members of the school community. Any such conduct could lead to dismissal.
- 7.2 In particular, criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct are likely to be regarded as unacceptable and could lead to dismissal.
- 7.3 Staff must exercise caution when using information technology and be aware of the risks to themselves and others. **Staff must not have social media contact with pupils or former pupils under the age of 18, unless sanctioned by the Headmaster.**
- 7.4 Staff must not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, the school, school community or employer into disrepute.
- 7.5 Staff should only use their school email account when communicating electronically with pupils, parents and colleagues. If they are to contact pupils, their parents must be copied in.
- 7.6 Staff may undertake work outside school, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the school and is not to a level which may contravene the working time regulations or affect an individual's work performance.
- 7.7 All members of staff must declare any business interests outside of school that may be connected either to the supply of goods/services to the school or be rewarded through association with the school.

8. Confidentiality

- 8.1 Where staff have access to confidential information about pupils/students or their parents or carers, they must not reveal such information except to those colleagues who have a professional role in relation to the pupil. [Confidentiality Policy](#)
- 8.2 All staff are likely at some point to witness actions which need to be confidential, for example, where a pupil is bullied by another pupil/student (or by a member of staff): this needs to be reported and dealt with in accordance with the appropriate school procedure. It must not be discussed outside the school, including with the pupil's parent or carer, nor with colleagues in the school except with a senior member of staff with the appropriate role and authority to deal with the matter.
- 8.3 When staff witness or become involved through parent contact with issues as described in 8.2, they must take detailed notes of any phone conversations and meetings, at the time of the conversation. Conversations should then be confirmed in writing to parents where possible, so that any differing accounts can be challenged at the time. If not challenged they will become a reliable record of the relevant call/meeting. Where more than one set of parents is involved, staff must take extra care to ensure a balanced approach in terms of "face-to-face" meetings with the respective parents and are not to provide feedback until everyone involved with an


incident/allegation has provided a statement. Parents should be advised that there will be a short delay to allow this to be done.

- 8.4 Staff have an obligation to share with their line manager or the school's DSL any information which gives rise to concern about the safety or welfare of a pupil. Staff must never promise a pupil that they will not act on information that they are told by the pupil.
- 8.5 Staff will be provided with training on confidentiality, which will be refreshed regularly and be part of the induction process for all new staff.

9. Whistleblowing

- 9.1 See [Whistle Blowing Policy](#).

10. Daily Conduct Requirements For Staff

- 10.1 Should a staff member need to be absent or expect to be late for any reason, he/she should request absence from his/her Line Manager in advance when possible. If this is not possible, he/she is asked to contact his/her Line Manager at the earliest opportunity.
- 10.2 To promote a healthy and pleasant working environment and because of the fire risk, smoking (in any form, including the use of e-cigarettes) is not encouraged and is only allowed in the designated area on the School site.
- 10.3 Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is not permitted on site save where, in the case of alcohol, at a school function, or otherwise agreed, when modest amounts of alcohol may be consumed. Employees' conduct and performance must not be adversely impacted by alcohol or drugs when undertaking their duties. Staff resident on site may consume modest quantities of alcohol in private accommodation when they are not on duty.
 Alcohol, smoking, illegal substance and solvent abuse policy
- 10.4 The school regularly receives visits from parents, potential parents and others, and naturally wishes to convey an impression of efficiency and organisation. Therefore, whilst not wishing to impose unreasonable obligations on staff, they are, nonetheless, required to look smart in appearance.
- 10.5 Due to the demands and nature of the school, staff should be prepared to transfer upon request within departments either temporarily or permanently, to undertake work of a different nature, providing it is reasonable and safe to do so and the staff member is adequately trained.

11. Disciplinary Action

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

12. Equal Treatment

- 12.1 St Hugh's School is committed to equal treatment for all pupils regardless of sex, sexuality, race, caste, disability, religion or belief. We keep a record of discriminatory incidents. We aim to create

a friendly, caring and perceptive environment in which every individual is valued. We endeavour to contribute positively towards the growing autonomy, self-esteem and safety of each pupil. Our staff undertake regular consultation activities with our pupils e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying week and speaking to children about their experiences at lunchtime and play-time.

13. Guidance on Professional and Personal Conduct - [Teachers' standards - GOV.UK](#)

13.1 A teacher must:

a. Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils

- i. establish a safe and stimulating environment for pupils, rooted in mutual respect
- ii. set goals that stretch and challenge pupils of all backgrounds, abilities and dispositions
- iii. demonstrate consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of pupils.

b. Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils

- i. be accountable for pupils' attainment, progress and outcomes
- ii. be aware of pupils' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these
- iii. guide pupils to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs
- iv. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how pupils learn and how this impacts on teaching
- v. encourage pupils to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study.

c. Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge

- i. have a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas, foster and maintain pupils' interest in the subject and address misunderstandings
- ii. demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas, and promote the value of scholarship
- iii. demonstrate an understanding of, and take responsibility for, promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject

- iv. if teaching mathematics, demonstrate a clear understanding of appropriate teaching strategies.

d. Plan and teach well-structured lessons

- i. impart knowledge and develop understanding through effective use of lesson time
- ii. promote a love of learning and children's intellectual curiosity
- iii. set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired
- iv. reflect systematically on the effectiveness of lessons and approaches to teaching
- v. contribute to the design and provision of an engaging curriculum within the relevant subject area(s).

e. Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils

- i. know when and how to differentiate appropriately, using approaches which enable pupils to be taught effectively
- ii. have a secure understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit pupils' ability to learn and how best to overcome these
- iii. demonstrate an awareness of the physical, social and intellectual development of children, and know how to adapt teaching to support pupils' education at different stages of development.
- iv. have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs; those of high ability; those with English as an additional language; those with disabilities; and be able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them.

f. Make accurate and productive use of assessment

- i. know and understand how to assess the relevant subject and curriculum areas, including statutory assessment requirements
- ii. make use of formative and summative assessment to secure pupils' progress
- iii. use relevant data to monitor progress, set targets, and plan subsequent lessons
- iv. give pupils regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encourage pupils to respond to the feedback.

g. Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

- i. have clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms and take responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour, both in classrooms and around the school, in accordance with the school's behaviour policy
- ii. have high expectations of behaviour, and establish a framework for discipline with a range of strategies, using praise, sanctions and rewards consistently and fairly
- iii. manage classes effectively, using approaches which are appropriate to pupils' needs in order to involve and motivate them
- iv. maintain good relationships with pupils, exercise appropriate authority, and act decisively when necessary.

h. Fulfil wider professional responsibilities

- i. make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school
- ii. develop effective professional relationships with colleagues, knowing how and when to draw on advice and specialist support
- iii. deploy support staff effectively
- iv. take responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development, responding to advice and feedback from colleagues
- v. communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils' achievements and well-being.
- vi. supporting whole school events as required, these are highlighted in the school calendar.

14. Personal And Professional Conduct

14.1 A teacher is expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. The following statements define the behaviour and attitudes which set the required standard for conduct throughout a teacher's career.

14.2 Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:

- a. Treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- b. Showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs ensuring that personal beliefs are

not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.

- c. Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach, and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- d. Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities

14.3 When we speak to others we will:

- a. Use a positive statement rather than a negative one so that children can learn what we expect of them in any situation.
- b. Use a calm tone of voice at all times, to explain something to or instruct the children, so that they can follow our words without feeling threatened or uncomfortable.
- c. Avoid using sarcastic words or phrases as these demean children and prevent them from developing high self-esteem.
- d. Speak respectfully to other adults at all times, even if we disagree with them.

14.4 As professionals we will:

- a. Avoid workplace gossip and negativity as it breeds resentment and becomes a roadblock to effective communication and collaboration. We all have a duty to take active steps to divert conversations away from this if we come across it.
- b. Maintain confidentiality about anything that we see or hear in the school, so that parents and children can trust us and as a way of showing respect to our fellow professionals.
- c. Work as part of a team, contributing as well as learning from others and helping to build up a strong workforce so that we can provide the best possible learning opportunities for the children.
- d. Work within the school's policies and practices, so that what we do is consistent with what has been agreed between all members of the staff and the governors.
- e. Treat everyone with respect.
- f. Dress appropriately, so that we set a good example for the children and to show that we are here to work.
- g. Behave in a positive way despite any personal problems that we may have, especially in front of the children.

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