



LYDIATE  
LEARNING  
TRUST

# Employee Code of Conduct Policy (LLT)



LYDIATE  
LEARNING  
TRUST

ENGAGE, ENABLE,  
EMPOWER

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## Employee Code of Conduct

### 1. Scope and Principles

- 1.1. This Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the standards of behaviour all employees of Lydiate Learning Trust are expected to observe. Employees working in an education provider are role models, are in a position of influence and must demonstrate behaviour that sets a good example to all the pupils within our schools. As a member of a school community, every employee has an individual responsibility to maintain their reputation and the reputation of the trust, whether inside or outside working hours.
- 1.2. In adopting this policy, the Trust is committed to creating a working environment in which all employees are treated fairly, with dignity and respect and where unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated.
- 1.3. This Code of Conduct applies to all employees and does not form part of the contract of employment.
- 1.4. Casual and self-employed workers, agency staff and volunteers working in the school are also expected to observe the standards of behaviour set out in this document.
- 1.5. In addition to this code of conduct;

All employees have an obligation to adhere to the most recent “Keeping Children Safe in Education” which provides guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings.

All employees engaged to work under “Conditions of Service for School Teachers in England and Wales” have a statutory obligation to adhere to the most recent “Teachers’ Standards” and in relation to this policy, Part 2 of the Teachers’ Standards - Personal and Professional Conduct.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1. Where the term ‘Headteacher’ is used this is applicable to staff employed as Head Teacher, Executive Headteacher, Head of School or Executive Director for Central Support Staff.

### 3. Compliance

- 3.1. Employees must familiarise themselves and comply with all school and Trust policies and procedures.
- 3.2. Employees must complete the form in Appendix 3 to confirm they have read, understood, and agreed to comply with the Code of Conduct. This form should then be signed and dated.

### 4. Disciplinary Action

- 4.1. Employees should be aware that a failure to comply with this Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action including but not limited to dismissal

### 5. Standards of behaviour and conduct

- 5.1. This code helps all employees to understand what behaviour is and is not acceptable. Regard should be given to the disciplinary rules set out in the trust’s Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

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- 5.2. Employees must not discriminate, harass, or victimise someone because they have or are perceived to have a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act 2010 or are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics are:-

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

- 5.3. Employees must set good examples of behaviour and demonstrate high standards of conduct to encourage our pupils to do the same. Employees are expected to demonstrate behaviours in line with our Trust values, at all times. Examples of standards expected of employees can be found in Appendix 1.

- 5.4. Employees must avoid using inappropriate or offensive language at all times.

- 5.5. Employees must avoid putting themselves at risk of allegations of abusive or unprofessional conduct.

## 6. Safeguarding Pupils

- 6.1. Employees have a duty to safeguard pupils from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse and neglect.

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

- 6.3. Employees must make themselves aware of the name of their school's current DSL. This information is available on notice boards in the staffroom and around each school.

- 6.4. Employees must take reasonable care of pupils under their supervision with the aim of ensuring their safety and welfare.

- 6.5. Employees must never promise a pupil that they will not act on information that they are told by the pupil.

- 6.6. Employees are provided with access to a copy of the Trust's Safeguarding Policy and Whistleblowing Procedure and must read, understand, and abide by these documents.

- 6.7. Employees are provided with access to the DfE Statutory Guidance Document 'Keeping children safe in education' and must read, understand, and abide by the document.

- 6.8. Employees are provided with access to the 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' and must read, understand, and abide by the document.

## 7. Relationships with Pupils

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- 7.1. Employees must declare any relationships that they may have with pupils outside of school; this may include mutual membership of social groups, tutoring, or family connections. Employees should not assume that the school are aware of any such connections. A declaration form is available at Appendix 2 of this document for declaration of such relationships.
- 7.2. Physical relationships with pupils, regardless of their age, are strictly forbidden and may lead to a criminal conviction. This may also apply to former pupils and advice must be sought before commencing any such relationship.
- 7.3. Employees must treat pupils with respect and dignity and must not demean or undermine them, their parents or carers, or work colleagues.
- 7.4. Employees must not behave in a way that may be perceived as sarcastic, nor should they make jokes at the expense of pupils, embarrass, or humiliate pupils, discriminate against or favour pupils
- 7.5. All interactions with pupils should be professional, including electronic communication – see section 12.

**8. Professional Relationships with Colleagues.**

- 8.1. Employees must help create a positive working environment and behave in a manner which ensures and promotes acceptable behaviour. Examples of acceptable behaviour and unacceptable behaviour can be found in Appendix 1.
- 8.2. Employees must strive toward and promote harmonious and professional relationships with all colleagues. It is understood that, at times, differences of opinions can occur and at such times it is expected that employees will attempt to resolve matters informally in the first instance unless they feel unable to do so, in which case they should refer the matter to their line manager.

**9. Honesty and Integrity.**

- 9.1. Employees must maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in their work. This includes the handling and claiming of money and the use of school and Trust property and facilities.
- 9.2. Employees 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 your concerns to the attention of your Headteacher or where the concern relates to the Headteacher to the Chair of Governors. Any concerns relating the Chief Executive or Trust Executive Team, should be referred to the Chair of Board or CEO, respectively.
- 9.3. Employees must not accept gifts or hospitality from suppliers or associates of the school or Trust, with the exception of 'one off' token gifts from parents. Personal gifts from employees to pupils are inappropriate and could be misinterpreted and may lead to disciplinary action. A record will be kept of all gifts received.
- 9.4. Employees must make known to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors all financial and non-financial interests that could bring them into conflict with the school's or Trust's interests.
- 9.5. All personal relationships with contractors, or potential contractors should be made known by the employee to the Headteacher with responsibility for the contract.
- 9.6. Employees must not be involved in any recruitment process if they have a personal relationship with the applicant inside or outside of work.

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9.7. Without fear of recrimination, employees can report any impropriety or breach of procedures using the process laid out within the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy.

## **10. Conduct Outside of Work**

10.1. Employees must not engage in conduct outside work which could damage the reputation and standing of the school, the Trust or the employee's own reputation or the reputation of other members of the school community.

10.2. Criminal offences that involve violence or possession or use of illegal drugs or sexual misconduct will be regarded as unacceptable and dealt with under the Trust's Disciplinary Policy.

10.3. Behaviour or activities that have the potential to make employees unsuitable for the role they are employed to perform will be dealt with under the Disciplinary Policy.

## **11. Employment outside of School**

11.1. Employees may undertake work outside school, either paid or voluntary, provided that it does not conflict with the interests of the school or the Trust, nor be to a level which may contravene the working time regulations or affect an individual's work performance in the school or Trust. In line with the Statement of Particulars, employees must seek the consent of the Headteacher should they wish to take up employment outside the school or Trust.

## **12. E-Safety and Internet Use**

12.1. Employees must exercise caution when using information technology and be aware of the risks to themselves and others. Regard should be given to the trust's Electronic Information and Communications Systems Policy at all times both inside and outside of work.

12.2. Employees must not use equipment belonging to the trust to access pornography; neither should personal equipment containing pornographic images or links to them be brought into the workplace. Doing so will raise serious concerns about the suitability of the employee to continue to work in schools and could lead to dismissal for gross misconduct.

12.3. Employees must not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, the trust, trust community or employer into disrepute. Employees should ensure that they adopt suitably high security settings on any personal profiles they may have.

12.4. Employees must exercise caution in their use of all social media or any other web-based presence that they may have, including written content, videos or photographs, and views expressed either directly or by 'liking' certain pages or posts established by others. This may also include the use of dating websites where employees could encounter pupils either with their own profile or acting covertly. Employees must not link themselves with the Trust on any social network site they use unless with prior consent of the Headteacher / Head of School.

12.5. Employees must not respond to negative comments posted online but bring this to the attention of the Headteacher / Head of School.

12.6. Employees must only contact pupils via school/ Trust authorised mechanisms. At no time should personal telephone numbers, email addresses or communication routes via personal accounts on social media platforms be used to communicate with pupils unless under the provisions of paragraph 7.1.

12.7. Employees must report to the Headteacher / Head of School any contact by a pupil by an inappropriate route.

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12.8. Photographs/still images or video footage of pupils should only be taken using school equipment, for purposes authorised by the school. Any such use should always be transparent and only occur in accordance with the Trust's Privacy Notice or where parental consent has been given. The resultant files from such recording or taking of photographs must be stored in accordance with the trust's procedures on school equipment.

### **13. Confidentiality**

13.1. Employees must not reveal confidential information about pupils or their parents or carers except to those colleagues who have a professional role in relation to the pupil.

13.2. Employees are likely at some point to witness actions which need to be confidential. For example, where a pupil is bullied by another pupil (or by another employee), this needs to be reported and dealt with in accordance with the appropriate School/Trust 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 authority to deal with the matter.

### **14. Dress and Appearance**

14.1. Employees must dress in a manner that is appropriate to a professional role and promotes a professional image. Jeans and trainers are not acceptable.

14.2. Employees must not dress in a manner that could be regarded by others as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative.

14.3. Employees must not wear clothes with political or other contentious slogans.

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## Appendix 1

Please note, this list / examples are not exhaustive.

### Examples of Acceptable Behaviour

People behave acceptably when they:

- Afford dignity, trust and respect for everyone and themselves;
- Have awareness of the effects of their behaviour on others and only make reasonable and manageable demands;
- Communicate honestly and openly, clearly stating what they need and expect of others;
- Provide and are receptive to honest feedback based on evidence; and
- Challenge discriminatory language and behaviour in an appropriate way.

### Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour:

- Using aggressive language, threatening, ridiculing, ignoring people or repeatedly shouting;
- Focusing only on weaknesses;
- Bringing up details of someone's private life inappropriately;
- Criticising people or maliciously gossiping about them in their absence;
- Ridiculing or demeaning someone – picking on them or setting them up to fail;
- Comments or jokes, about distinctive peoples and nationalities;
- Frequent comments about aspects of physical appearance or using forms of address that are demeaning;
- Threatening or implying, without reason, that, as a colleague, you will cause the person to lose his/her job or fail to get a promotion or suffer some other form of career difficulty or financial disadvantage;
- Coercing someone to join the harassment/bullying of another person;
- Excluding or marginalising someone or refusing to engage with them appropriately. This list is not exhaustive. It is simply a guide to help individuals consider their own and others behaviour and gain understanding of what behaviours are unacceptable in the workplace.

### The standards expected of all employees include but are not limited to:

- Maintaining standards of behaviour in line with Trust Values
- Maintaining standards of behaviour in keeping with the interests and standing of the school and trust. This includes behaviour outside of working hours and in any form that is visible to the public, including social networking or any other electronic medium
- Devoting full attention while at work to the duties of their position and in doing so acting with responsibility, good judgement and in good faith
- Carrying out any reasonable instructions given by those with authority to do so
- Not divulging to any unauthorised person or making personal use of confidential information connected with the Trust either intentionally or through negligent behaviour
- Observing the rules, regulations and instructions adopted by the Trust
- Following appropriate safeguarding procedures
- Participating fully in any investigation into alleged incidents and/or allegations including attending meetings as directed
- Using electronic communications appropriately
- Ensuring that information brought to light as a result of any investigation is treated with discretion
- Carrying out their role consistently with any standards set by their appropriate professional body

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- Taking steps to address any unacceptable behaviour
- Treating colleagues and third parties with dignity and respect.

**In addition to the above, the expectations of those employed in management roles are to:**

- Ensure the standards expected from all employees are role-modelled, monitored and managed effectively
- Effectively manage all applicable statutory and non-statutory obligations
- Appropriately manage all alleged incidents and/or allegations.

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**Appendix 2:**

Relationships with pupils outside of work declaration

It is recognised that there may be circumstances whereby employees are known to pupils outside of work. Examples include membership of sports clubs, family connections. Employees must declare any relationship outside of school that they may have with pupils.

Please note, express permission must be sought before embarking on any private tutoring arrangements, whether or not they might include pupils from the school, and it is insufficient to complete this declaration

**Employee's Name**

**Pupil Name**

**Relationship**

Signed ..... Date .....

Once completed, signed and dated, please return this form to Headteacher/ Head of School.

Signed by Headteacher ..... Date.....

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**Appendix 3: Confirmation of compliance**

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the trust's code of conduct and will comply with them.

**Signed** ..... **Dated**.....

**Print Name**..... **Role** .....

A copy will be retained on your personnel file.

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