The White House Preparatory School

### Woodentops Kindergarten and Woodentops Day Nursery

**STAFF BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

A Legal Requirement and an ISI Reporting Standard

References:

A. ISI Handbook for the Inspection of Schools, The Regulatory Requirements January 2017

<https://www.isi.net/site/downloads/1.1%20Handbook%20Inspection%20Framework%202017-01.pdf>

B. 'The Early Years Foundation Stage: Statutory Framework April 2017: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf>

C. 'Keeping children safe in education' DfE guidance September 2018: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737289/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education_Sept_2018.pdf>

D 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', DfE guidance dated July 2018:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf>

E. The definition and signs of child abuse (<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/signsofabuse>)

F. 'Child Protection in Academies: Setting the Scene', Browne Jacobson Solicitors 2009

G. 'School Staff as Police Officers'- an ISBA briefing document by Farrer & Co, February 2012

H.  Evidence from the NSPCC Policy Adviser - Safeguarding, Emily Arkell, to Sir Roger Singleton's Review, dated 2 February 2009. ([www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/))

I. The National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (NMS)

J. Statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

**STAFF BEHAVIOUR AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

This policy must be read together with the Staff Handbook.

Staff need to ensure that their behaviour does not inadvertently lay them open to allegations of abuse.  They need to treat all pupils with respect and try, as far as possible, not to be alone with a child or young person.  Where this is not possible, for example, in an instrumental music lesson, or sports coaching lesson, it is good practice to ensure that others are within earshot.  Where possible, a gap or barrier should be maintained between teacher and child at all times.  Any physical contact should be the minimum required for care, instruction or restraint.  Staff should avoid taking one pupil on his/her own in a car.

***Communication with Pupils including the use of social media***

Staff must not give their personal mobile phone numbers or email addresses to pupils, nor should they communicate with them by text message or personal email.  If they need to speak to a pupil by telephone, they should use one of the school's telephones and email using the school system.

The group leader on all trips and visits involving an overnight stay should take a school mobile phone with him/her and may ask the pupils for their mobile numbers before allowing them out in small, unsupervised groups.  The school mobile should be used for any contact with pupils that may be necessary.   The group leader will delete any record of pupils' mobile phone numbers at the end of the trip or visit and should ensure that pupils delete any staff numbers that they may have acquired during the trip.

Staff should be aware that it is not appropriate to use social media to communicate with pupils. Staff are reminded that it is a criminal offence for a person aged 18 or over to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if the relationship is consensual.

***Physical contact with pupils***

There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with pupils, but it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role.  Staff should, therefore, use their professional judgement at all times.  Staff should not have unnecessary physical contact with pupils and should be alert to the fact that minor forms of friendly physical contact can be misconstrued by pupils or onlookers.

A member of staff can never take the place of a parent in providing physical comfort and should be cautious of any demonstration of affection.

Physical contact should never be secretive, or of the gratification of the adult, or represent a misuse of authority.  If a member of staff believes that an action could be misinterpreted, the incident and circumstances should be recorded as soon as possible, the Designated Safeguarding Lead informed and, if appropriate, a copy placed on the pupil's file.

***Physical Restraint***

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead/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.

***Physical education and other activities requiring physical contact***

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 Sport and swimming, 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 non-verbally by the child.

***Electronic communication with pupils***

Please see the E-Safety Policy and the Social Media Policy in the Staff Handbook for staff's obligations in relation to electronic communications with pupils. Staff will undertake regular training on the internet and safety online, details of which are set out in the E-Safety Policy and/or the Social Media Policy.

***Transporting pupils***

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.

***Confidentiality***

Staff members should never give absolute guarantees of confidentiality to pupils or adults wishing to tell them about something serious.  They should guarantee only that they will pass on information to the minimum number of people who must be told in order to ensure that the proper action is taken to sort out the problem and that they will not tell anyone who does not have a clear need to know.  They will also take whatever steps they can to protect the informing pupil or adult from any retaliation or unnecessary stress that might be feared after a disclosure has been made.

**ACTION IF A PUPIL IS MISSING**

N.B Please refer also to the school's guidance on missing child policy and procedures when a child is not collected on time.

During the working day:

* first check with the pupil's friends
* check with the office who will check the signing out/in book and if necessary inform the senior member of staff on duty who will then follow up this information.
* Initiate a search of the school site.

A record is kept by the school of any instances in which a pupil is missing from school without satisfactory permission and documentation, including the action taken and the pupil's explanation.

**EQUAL TREATMENT**

We are 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-times.

**BULLYING**

Bullying, harassment and victimisation and discrimination will not be tolerated.  We treat all our pupils, staff, and their parents fairly and with consideration and we expect them to reciprocate towards each other, the staff and the school. Any kind of bullying including cyber bullying is unacceptable and the school keeps a record of any incidents.  Please see our school policy on anti-bullying for further details.

**COMPLAINTS**

Copies of the school's complaints procedure can be sent to any parent on request. Any complaint arising from the implementation of this policy will be considered under the school's complaints procedure.

**WHISTLEBLOWING**

The School wishes to foster a culture of openness and safety and the school's Whistleblowing Procedure reflects this. Should any member of staff have any concerns about the behaviour of another member of staff towards a pupil, he or she should report it at once to the Head (or to the Principal).  Any concern will be thoroughly investigated under the school's whistle-blowing procedures.  Such reporting will be without prejudice to the member of staff's position in the school. Where there are allegations of criminal activity, the LADO (or DO) will always be informed, and advice taken, before the school undertakes any investigation of its own.  Wherever possible, and subject to the rights of the pupil, the member of staff will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.  No one who reports a genuine concern in good faith needs to fear retribution.  Under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 the member of staff may be entitled to raise a concern directly with an external body where the circumstances justify it.

**DAILY CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF**

Attendance and Timekeeping

Should a staff member need to be absent or expect to be late for any reason, he/she should ask their Headteacher in advance when possible.

Eating and Drinking

No coffee/tea to be taken around the school without a Cup with a lid. No hot food to be consumed by staff whilst taking care of children including whilst teaching and on playground and sport duty.

Smoking

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 allowed anywhere on site.

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

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.

Security

Staff must not remove any school documents from the site nor take any photographs without due permission. The school reserves the right to search the outer clothing, bags, lockers and vehicles etc. of staff members whilst on site. The staff member may have a colleague in attendance on such (rare) occasions.

Personal Appearance

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.  No Jeans and no flip flops. Please keep a jacket in school for showround days.

Mobility and Flexibility

Due to the demands and nature of the school, staff should be prepared to transfer upon request within classes 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.

Use of Mobile Phones and Cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission (provided in writing via consent form).  Photographs will only be taken by a designated staff member/s on school equipment.  Where photographs are taken by staff to give evidence of children's progress, photos can only be taken on school cameras.  They must then be downloaded onto school computers, where they will be monitored. Photos cannot be used or passed on outside the school.

Neither staff nor children may use their own mobile phones to take photographs within our EYFS setting; nursery and up to Reception and year 6 in our school.

Mobile Phones are only to be used on site in the staff room.

Use of Mobile phones and Cameras in the Woodentops Nursery

The nursery allows staff to bring in personal mobile phones for their own use on their lunch breaks. All staff must ensure that their mobile phone is switched off and left in the locked box in the staff kitchen during working hours, only to be checked in the staff room at breaks and lunch.

Mobile phones are not to be used in the building at any time and must NEVER be used to take photographs of other staff members, parents, or children. Parents and visitors must be reminded that they are not to use their phones whilst in the nursery, and under no circumstances can they take any photos within the building.

Staff under no circumstances are permitted to have their mobile phones in the play rooms or bathrooms. This will be deemed gross- misconduct.

Whilst on an outing with the children mobile phones must stay at work in the staff room, the nursery provides an outings phone which has the contact numbers for management from both settings.

Where photographs are taken by staff to give evidence of children's progress, photos can only be taken on school cameras.  They must then be downloaded onto nursery computers, where they will be monitored. Photos cannot be used or passed on outside the school.

Failure to adhere to any off the above will be taken very seriously, logged and investigated appropriately and disciplinary action may occur.

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| Policy will be reviewed annually | | | |
| Policy reviewed: | Sept 16 | By: | Principal & Headteacher |
| Policy reviewed: | Sept 17 | By: | Principal & Headteacher |
| Policy reviewed: | Sept 18 | By: | Principal & Headteacher |
| To be reviewed: | Sept 19 | By: | Principal & Headteacher |