

Bourne Education Trust

Code of Conduct for All Adults

2025/26

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Introduction

1. The Code sets out the professional standards expected and the duty upon adults to abide by it. All adults have a duty to keep pupils safe, promote their welfare and to protect them from radicalisation (the Prevent Duty), abuse (sexual, physical and emotional), neglect and safeguarding concerns. This duty is, in part, exercised through the development of respectful, caring and professional relationships between adults and pupils and behaviour by adults that demonstrates integrity, maturity and good judgement. Following this Code will help to safeguard adults from being maliciously, falsely or mistakenly suspected or accused of misconduct in relation to pupils.
2. For the purposes of this Code, the term and references to ‘adult’ means the following: local governing committee members, Trustees, all teaching and support staff and other employees, including trainee teachers and other trainees/apprentices, and any other individuals who work for or provide services on behalf of or for Bourne Education Trust to include but not limited to all those detailed in the single central record). For the purposes of this Code ‘young person/people’, ‘pupils’ and ‘child/ren’ includes all those for whom Bourne Education Trust provides education or other services.
3. This Code takes account of the most recent versions of the following guidance (statutory and non-statutory):
 - ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ Department of Education (‘DfE’) (statutory)
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children’ HM Government (statutory)
 - ‘Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Working with Children and Young People in Education Settings’ (non-statutory).
4. This Code cannot provide an exhaustive list of what is, or is not, appropriate behaviour for adults. However, it does highlight behaviour that is illegal, inappropriate or inadvisable in relation to the required professional standards. There will be occasions and circumstances in which adults have to make decisions or take action in the best interests of the pupil where no specific guidance has been given. Adults are expected to make responsible and informed judgements about their own behaviour in order to secure the best interests and welfare of the pupils.
5. Any behaviour in breach of this Code by employees may result in action under our disciplinary procedure. Such behaviour may constitute gross misconduct and, as such, may result in summary dismissal. Trust and school leaders will take a strict approach to serious breaches of this Code. Some breaches may be considered low level concerns which may be dealt with informally or formally under the disciplinary procedure.

Safeguarding and child protection policy

6. Adults have a duty to act in accordance with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is available from the school office or the school website, and report any safeguarding, child protection, welfare or radicalisation concerns about a pupil to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Whistleblowing

7. Adults must raise concerns they have about the safeguarding or child protection practices by following the Whistleblowing Policy, which is available from the school website or the Bourne Education Trust website. An adult who raises a matter under the whistleblowing policy or makes a public interest disclosure will have the protection of the relevant legislation.

Allegations of abuse against teachers and other employees and volunteers

Where it is alleged that an adult has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they would pose a risk of harm to children;
 - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
8. The leadership/Local Governing Committee (LGC) will follow Bourne Education Trust's procedure as detailed in the Trust's Statement for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff and the guidance set out in Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE which is available from the school office, the school website or the Bourne Education Trust website.

Low Level Concerns

9. In accordance with Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education, a low level concern is defined as behaviour towards a child that does not meet the harm threshold, as outlined in 1.7 above, but is a concern that an adult, working in or on behalf of the school or Trust, may have acted in a way that:
 - is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and
 - does not meet the threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO
10. Examples of low level concerns could include, but are not limited to:
 - being over friendly with children
 - having favourites

- using inappropriate language

It should be noted that there may be instances where the incidents listed above are deemed serious enough to constitute consideration as a serious allegation, rather than a low-level concern.

11. The Trust is committed to creating and embedding a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which Bourne Education Trust's values and expected behaviours, as set out in this policy, are adhered to, monitored and reinforced by all adults. All adults have a duty to report low level concerns, in addition to concerns that meet the harm threshold, to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities to ensure matters are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Senior leaders will manage all such concerns in accordance with Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
12. In the event that an adult has found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards, the adult should self-refer to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities. Bourne Education Trust is committed to creating an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer.

Offences and your duty to inform

13. If during the course of your employment or placement at a BET setting, you are arrested, or summonsed for an offence or receive a conviction, a bindover order or a warning given by a police force you are required to inform the Bourne Education Trust of this fact immediately via your Headteacher or line manager in the case of centrally employed staff. Such information will be treated in confidence, so far as this is consistent with the safety of children and compliance with statutory child protection procedures. Failure to disclose such information may result in disciplinary action which could lead to the termination of your employment.

Expected professional standards

14. All adults, as appropriate to the role and/or job description of the individual, must:
 - Place the well-being and learning of pupils at the centre of their professional practice;
 - Have high expectations for all pupils, be committed to addressing underachievement, and work to help pupils progress regardless of their background and personal circumstances;
 - Treat pupils fairly and with respect, take their knowledge, views, opinions and feelings seriously, and value diversity and individuality;

- Model the characteristics they are trying to inspire in pupils, including enthusiasm for learning, a spirit of enquiry, honesty, tolerance, social responsibility, patience, and a genuine concern for other people;
- Respond sensitively to the differences in the home backgrounds and circumstances of pupils, recognising the key role that parents and carers play in pupils' education;
- Seek to work in partnership with parents and carers, respecting their views and promoting understanding and co-operation to support the young person's learning and wellbeing in and out of School;
- Reflect on their own practice, develop their skills, knowledge and expertise, and adapt appropriately to learn with and from colleagues;
- Ensure that the same professional standards are always applied regardless of culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity.

15. Teachers are required to comply with the Teachers' Standards September 1st 2012, in particular, Part 2 Personal and Professional Standards. All adults must be familiar with and act in accordance with the most recent versions of the following documents:

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (statutory)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government (statutory)
- Prevent Duty Guidance HM Government (statutory)
- 'The Prevent Duty Departmental Advice for Schools and Childcare Providers' DfE
- 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Working with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (non-statutory).

16. An employee who fails to bring a matter of concern to the attention of senior management and/or the relevant agencies is likely to be subject to disciplinary action.

Confidentiality

17. As data controllers, the Trust and all constituent schools are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 ("Data Protection Legislation"). In addition, teachers owe a common law duty of care to safeguard the welfare of their pupils. This duty is acknowledged in the provisions governing disclosure of information about pupils.

18. Adults may have access to special category personal data about pupils and their families, which must be kept confidential at all times and only shared when legally permissible to do so and in the interests of the child. Records should only be shared with those who have a legitimate professional need to see them. In circumstances where special category personal data needs to be shared, the Data Protection Legislation contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent if it is not possible to gain consent. In such cases, adults have a

duty to pass the information on without delay to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities. See paragraph 18 below.

19. Confidential or personal information about a pupil or their family must never be disclosed to anyone other than on a need to know basis and advice should be sought prior to disclosure to ensure such disclosure is in accordance with the Data Protection Legislation, The Education (Pupil Information) Regulations 2005 (Maintained Schools), and Bourne Education Trust's Privacy Notices. In circumstances where the pupil's identity does not need to be disclosed the information should be used anonymously. The information must never be used as gossip or to intimidate, humiliate, or embarrass the pupil. The information must never be used by anyone for their own or others advantage (including that of partners, friends relatives or other organisations). Adults must be conscious of the environment when discussing confidential or personal information about a pupil or their family.
20. Confidential information about pupils must be held securely. Confidential information about pupils must not be held off site other than on security protected Trust or school equipment. The information must only be stored for the length of time necessary to discharge the task for which it is required.
21. If a pupil or parent/carers makes a disclosure regarding abuse or neglect, the adult in receipt of that disclosure must follow Bourne Education Trust's procedures and the guidance as set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' DfE. Confidentiality must not be promised to the pupil or parent/carers, however, reassurance should be given that the information will be treated sensitively.
22. If an adult is in any doubt about the storage or sharing of information they must seek guidance from the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Any media or legal enquiries must be passed to senior leaders.
23. The same standards of behaviour are expected when dealing with confidential information relating to Trust governors, Trustees or staff or connected third parties.

Propriety, behaviour and appearance

24. All adults working with children have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of pupils. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain the confidence and respect of their colleagues, pupils and the public in general. An adult's behaviour or actions, either in or out of the workplace, must not compromise their position within the work setting, or bring Bourne Education Trust into disrepute. Non-exhaustive examples of unacceptable behaviour are contained in our disciplinary procedure/rules.

25. Adults are required to notify Bourne Education Trust via their Headteacher, Core Group Member or line manager in the case of centrally employed staff, immediately of any allegation/s of misconduct that are of a safeguarding nature made against them (or implicating them), by a child or adult in relation to any outside work or interest (whether paid or unpaid) and, of any arrest or criminal charge whether child-related or not. Where employees fail to do so, this will be treated as a serious breach of this Code and dealt with under our disciplinary procedure.

26. Individuals should not behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to:

- Work with children
- Act as an appropriate role model.

Such questions may arise if an adult:

- Makes, or encourages others to make sexual remarks to, or about, a pupil
- Uses inappropriate language to or in the presence of pupils
- Discusses their personal or sexual relationships with or in the presence of pupils
- Makes, or encourages others to make, unprofessional personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate, or might be interpreted as such.

27. Behaving in an unsuitable way towards children may result in disqualification from childcare under the Childcare Act 2006, prohibition from teaching by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), a bar from engaging in regulated activity, or action by another relevant regulatory.

28. A person's dress and appearance are matters of personal choice, self-expression, religious and cultural customs. However, adults must maintain an appropriate standard of dress and personal appearance at work which promotes a positive and professional image. Clothing and footwear must be safe and clean and take account of health and safety considerations. Adults must ensure they are dressed in ways appropriate to their role and not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative and specifically should not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding and should be religious and culturally sensitive and free of any political or otherwise contentious slogans, and not considered to be discriminatory. Adults who dress or appear in a manner which may be considered as inappropriate could render themselves vulnerable to criticism or, where the adult is an employee, allegations of misconduct that may lead to action under our disciplinary procedure. The Trust's Dress Code is attached at Appendix A.

29. Bourne Education Trust aims to provide a safe working and learning environment for both pupils and colleagues, and to this end the whole Trust supports a strict no smoking policy. The policy and the term "smoking" includes the banning of vaping, e-cigs or any other similar

tobacco substitute. To maintain a smoke-free environment the following statements apply to all adults covered by this Code of Conduct:

- Smoking is not permitted in any part of any Bourne Education Trust school site at any time. This includes within all school buildings and the outside areas of the school, including the car park, playgrounds and playing fields. This includes school events held outside normal school hours, including school trips and education outside of school premises.
- Smoking at the entrances and exits to the school site and immediate areas around school will be strongly discouraged

(please note that separate, rigorous, policies and procedures are in place for students)

30. Personal property of a sexually-explicit nature or property which might be regarded as promoting radicalisation or otherwise inappropriate such as books, magazines, CDs, DVDs or such material on any electronic media including links to such material must not be brought onto or stored on Trust premises or on any Trust or school equipment.

Sexual conduct with children and young people and abuse of trust

31. A relationship between an adult and a child or young person is not a relationship between equals; the adult has a position of power or influence. There is potential for exploitation and harm of children or vulnerable young people and all adults have a responsibility to ensure that an unequal balance of power is not used for personal advantage or gratification. Adults must not use their status or position to form or promote relationships with children (whether current pupils or not), that are of a sexual nature, or which may become so. Adults should maintain appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour which might be misinterpreted by others. They should report any incident with this potential.
32. Any sexual behaviour or activity by an adult with or towards a child/pupil or young person, is illegal. Children and young people are protected by the same laws as adults in relation to non-consensual sexual behaviour. They are additionally protected by specific legal provisions regardless of whether there is consent or not. Where a person aged 18 or over is in a specified position of trust with a child or young person under 18 years, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it an offence for that person to engage in sexual activity with or in the presence of that child or to cause or incite that child to engage in or watch sexual activity.
33. Sexual behaviour includes non-contact activities, such as causing a child or young person to engage in or watch sexual activity or the production of indecent images of children. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', Appendix A defines sexual abuse as "...forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening..."

34. Adults must not have sexual relationships with pupils or have any form of communication with a child, which could be interpreted as sexually suggestive or provocative i.e. verbal comments, letters, notes, texts, electronic mail, phone calls, social networking contact or physical contact. The adult should not make sexual remarks to, or about, a child or discuss their own sexual relationships with or in the presence of pupils. Adults should take care that their language or conduct does not give rise to comment or speculations. Attitudes, demeanour and language all require care and thought.
35. There are occasions when adults embark on a course of behaviour known as 'grooming' where the sole purpose is to gain the trust of a child or young person, and manipulate that relationship so that sexual abuse can take place. Adults should be aware that conferring special attention without good reason or favouring a pupil has the potential to be construed as being part of a 'grooming' process, which is a criminal offence.

Infatuations and crushes

36. A child or young person may develop an infatuation with an adult who works with them. An adult, who becomes aware (may receive a report, overhear something, or otherwise notice any sign, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant) that a pupil has become or may be becoming infatuated with them or a colleague, must report this without delay to the Headteacher or the most senior manager, so that appropriate action can be taken to avoid any hurt, distress or embarrassment. The situation will be taken seriously and the adult should be careful to ensure that no encouragement of any kind is given to the pupil. It should also be recognised that careless and insensitive reactions may provoke false accusations.
37. Examples of situations which must be reported are given below:
- Where an adult is concerned that they might be developing a relationship with a pupil which could have the potential to represent an abuse of trust
 - Where an adult is concerned that a pupil is becoming attracted to them or that there is a developing attachment or dependency
 - Where an adult is concerned that actions or words have been misunderstood or misconstrued by a pupil such that an abuse of trust might be wrongly suspected by others
 - Where an adult is concerned about the apparent development of a relationship by another adult or receives information about such a relationship.

Gifts, rewards, favouritism and exclusion

38. It is against the law for public servants to take bribes. Adults need to take care that they do not accept any gift that might be construed by others as a bribe or lead the giver to expect preferential treatment. There are occasions when pupils or parents/carers wish to pass small

tokens of appreciation to adults e.g. at Christmas or as a thank you and this is acceptable. However, it is unacceptable to receive gifts on a regular basis or of any significant value. Employees must comply with the Bourne Education Trust Gifts and Hospitality Policy. A copy of the policy is held within the BET Financial Management Manual. In general, you may accept gifts of nominal value up to the value of approximately £25, although it is accepted that gifts from groups (eg. as a result of a class collection) may exceed this amount.

39. Personal gifts must not be given to pupils or their families/carers. This could be misinterpreted as a gesture either to bribe or groom. It might be perceived that a 'favour' of some kind is expected in return. Any reward given to a pupil should be consistent with Bourne Education Trust's behaviour or rewards policy, recorded, and not based on favouritism.
40. Care should be taken when selecting children for specific activities, jobs, privileges and when pupils are excluded from an activity in order to avoid perceptions of favouritism or injustice. Methods of selection and exclusion should be subject to clear, fair and agreed criteria.


Social contact and social networking

41. Communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, should take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and with reference to the Bourne Education Trust ICT & Communications Policy. This includes the wider use of technology such as mobile phones, tablets, text messages, emails, instant messages, websites, social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, chat-rooms, forums, blogs, apps such as Whatsapp, gaming sites, digital cameras, videos, webcams and other handheld devices. Adults should not share any personal information with pupils and they should not request, or respond to, any personal information from the child/young person, other than that which might be appropriate as part of their professional role. They should ensure that all communications are transparent and avoid any communication that could be interpreted as 'grooming behaviour'.
42. Adults must not give their personal contact details such as home/mobile phone number; home or personal e-mail address or social networking details to pupils unless the need to do so is agreed in writing with senior management. If, for example, a pupil attempts to locate an adult's personal contact details and attempts to contact or correspond with them, the adult should not respond and must report the matter to their Headteacher or line manager in the case of centrally employed staff (or in their absence, a member of the Trust's core group).
43. Adults must ensure that all possible privacy settings are activated to prevent pupils from making contact on personal profiles and to prevent pupils from accessing photo albums or other personal information which may appear on social networking sites.

44. Adults are personally responsible for what they communicate in social media and must bear in mind that what is published might be read by us, pupils, parents and carers, the general public, future employers and friends and family for a long time. Adults must ensure that their online profiles are consistent with the professional image expected by us and must not post material which damages the reputation of Bourne Education Trust or which causes concern about their suitability to work with children and young people. Those who post material which may be considered as inappropriate could render themselves vulnerable to criticism or, in the case of an employee, allegations of misconduct which may be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure. Even where it is made clear that the writer's views on such topics do not represent those of Bourne Education Trust, such comments are inappropriate.
45. Adults are advised not to have any online friendships with any young people under the age of 18 unless they are family members or close family friends. Adults are advised not to have online friendships with parents or carers of pupils or members of the Governing Body/Trustees. Where such online friendships exist, adults must ensure appropriate professional boundaries are maintained.
46. It is acknowledged that adults may have genuine friendships and social contact with parents or carers of pupils, independent of the professional relationship. Adults should, however:
- Inform senior management of any relationship with a parent/carer where this extends beyond the usual parent/carer/professional relationship
 - Advise senior management of any regular social contact they have with a pupil or parent/carer, which could give rise to concern
 - Inform senior management of any requests or arrangements where parents/carers wish to use their services outside of the workplace e.g. babysitting, tutoring
 - Always approve any planned social contact with pupils or parents/carers with senior colleagues, for example, when it is part of a reward scheme
 - If a parent/carer seeks to establish social contact, or if this occurs coincidentally, the adult should exercise their professional judgment and should ensure that all communications are transparent and open to scrutiny.
47. Some employees may, as part of their professional role, be required to support a parent or carer. If that person comes to depend upon the employee or seeks support outside of their professional role this should be discussed with senior management and, where necessary, referrals made to the appropriate support agency.
48. Bourne Education Trust employees are not permitted to tutor, coach for sports or undertake any activity for private payment with any pupils on roll, or any pupils preparing for any Trust examinations.

Physical contact, personal privacy and personal care

49. There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for employees to have physical contact with pupils, but adults must avoid touching or seeking to touch pupils unless it is used for reasonable restraint, for the purpose of protection or a gesture of congratulation. It is appropriate for staff to touch a pupil if it is to maintain their safety or the safety of another person. When physical contact is made with pupils this should be in response to their needs at the time, of limited duration and appropriate given their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity, culture and background. Employees must use their professional judgement at all times. It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact, since an action that is appropriate with one pupil in one set of circumstances may be inappropriate in another, or with a different pupil.
50. (Note: In secondary schools, any such physical contact must be recorded in CPOMS after discussion with the line manager and/or DSL. In Primary schools a safe touch policy must be in place that will illustrate 'appropriate touch'. Adults must be aware of the school policies in this area which will refer to the relevant Local Authority's safe touch, physical intervention and physical restraint guidance. Any physical touch or intervention that falls outside the school's policy in this area must be recorded on CPOMS.)
51. Physical contact should never be secretive or casual, or for the gratification of the adult, or represent a misuse of authority. Adults should never touch a pupil in a way which may be considered indecent. If an adult believes that an action could be misinterpreted, the incident and circumstances should be reported as soon as possible to the Headteacher or DSL and the incident should be recorded on CPOMS.
52. Physical contact, which occurs regularly with a pupil or pupils, is likely to raise questions unless the justification for this is part of a formally agreed plan (for example in relation to pupils with SEN or physical disabilities). Any such contact should be the subject of an agreed and open school policy and subject to review. Where feasible, employees should seek the pupil's permission before initiating contact. Adults should listen, observe and take note of the pupil's reaction or feelings and, so far as is possible, use a level of contact which is acceptable to the pupil for the minimum time necessary.
53. Some employees, for example, those who teach PE and games, or who provide 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 a safe and open environment. Adults should remain sensitive to any discomfort expressed verbally or non-verbally by the pupil.

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54. All parties should clearly understand from the outset what physical contact is necessary and appropriate in undertaking specific activities. Keeping parents/carers informed of the extent and nature of any physical contact may also prevent allegations of misconduct arising. Any incidents of physical contact that cause concern or fall outside of these protocols and guidance should be reported to the Headteacher.
55. Pupils are entitled to respect and privacy when changing clothes or taking a shower. However, there needs to be an appropriate level of supervision in order to safeguard pupils, satisfy health and safety considerations and ensure that bullying or teasing does not occur. This supervision should be appropriate to the needs and age of the pupils concerned and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment. Adults who are required as part of their role to attend changing rooms should announce their intention of entering any pupil changing rooms and only remain in the room where the pupil/s needs require this.
56. Employees with a job description which includes intimate care duties will have appropriate training and written guidance including a written care plan for any pupil who could be expected to require intimate care. Staff should adhere to the school's intimate and personal care policies. No other adult should be involved in intimate care duties except in an emergency. Employees should not assist with personal or intimate care tasks which the pupil is able to undertake independently.

Behaviour management and physical intervention

57. All pupils have a right to be treated with respect and dignity. Adults must not use any form of degrading treatment to punish a pupil. The use of sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments towards pupils is not acceptable in any situation. Deliberately intimidating pupils by shouting aggressively, hectoring or overbearing physical presence is not acceptable in any situation. Any sanctions or rewards used should be part of the school's Behaviour Management Policy and Behaviour for Learning Policy where one is in place.
58. Physical intervention can only be justified in exceptional circumstances. Non-statutory guidance is available from the Department of Education website. See 'Use of reasonable force - advice for Head Teachers, Staff and Governing Bodies'. Adults may legitimately intervene to prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others, causing damage to property, engaging in behaviour prejudicial to good order and to maintain good order and discipline. Adults should have regard to the health and safety of themselves and others and be aware that it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment. The use of unwarranted physical force is likely to constitute a criminal offence.

(Note: Where a pupil has specific needs in respect of particularly challenging behaviour, a positive handling plan, including a risk assessment, should be put in place and agreed by all parties. Where it is judged that a pupil's behaviour presents a serious risk to themselves or others, a robust risk assessment that is regularly reviewed and a physical intervention plan, where relevant, must be put in place. All incidents and subsequent actions should be recorded and reported to a senior leader and the pupil's parents/carers. Where it can be anticipated that physical intervention is likely to be required, a plan should be put in place that the pupil and parents/carers are aware of and have agreed to. Parental consent does not permit the use of unlawful physical intervention or deprive a pupil of their liberty. The school has separate policies on Behaviour Management and the Use of Physical Intervention.)

First aid and medication

59. Employees should have regard to the statutory guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' DfE December 2015, which includes advice on managing medicines and the school's policies on supporting pupils with a medical conditions. Employees must have had the appropriate training and achieved the necessary level of competency before administering first aid or medication or taking on the responsibility to support pupils with medical conditions. If an adult is concerned or uncertain about the amount or type of medication being given to a pupil this should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
60. Adults taking medication that may affect their ability to care for children should seek medical advice regarding their suitability to do so and should not work with pupils whilst taking medication unless medical advice confirms that they are able to do so. Adult medication on the premises must be securely stored out of the reach of children.

One to one situations and meetings with pupils

61. One to one situations have the potential to make children/young people more vulnerable to harm by those who seek to exploit their position of trust. Adults working in one to one settings with pupils may also be more vulnerable to unjust or unfounded allegations being made against them. Adults must recognise this possibility and plan and conduct such meetings accordingly. Every attempt should be made to ensure that the safety and security needs of both adults and pupils are met. Where such a meeting is demonstrably unavoidable, it is advisable to avoid remote or secluded areas and to ensure that the door of the room is left open and/or visual/auditory contact with others is maintained. Any arrangements should be reviewed on a regular basis.
62. Pre-arranged meetings with pupils away from the premises or at a Bourne Education Trust site when Bourne Education Trust is not in session are not permitted unless written approval

is obtained from their parent/carer and the Headteacher or another senior colleague with delegated authority.

63. No pupil should be in or invited into the home of an adult who works with them unless they are family members or close family friends, in which case adults are advised to notify their Headteacher or line manager in the case of centrally employed staff. Pupils must not be asked to assist adults with jobs or tasks at or in their private accommodation or for their personal benefit.
64. There are occasions during exam periods when timetables clash and arrangements need to be made to preserve the integrity of the examination process. In these circumstances, exam boards may allow candidates to take an exam the following morning, including Saturdays. The examination board requires the centre to determine a method of supervision on journeys to and from the centre and overnight, which ensures the candidate's wellbeing. This supervision may be undertaken by a parent/carer or, employees may be asked to volunteer to supervise pupils in their own home but this must be with prior approval by a senior leader.
65. Other than in an emergency, an adult must not enter a pupil's home if the parent/carer is absent.

Transporting pupils

66. In certain situations, e.g. out of school activities, adults may agree to transport pupils. Transport arrangements should be made in advance by a designated employee who will be responsible for planning and overseeing all transport arrangements and respond to any concerns that may arise. Wherever possible and practicable, transport should be provided other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort.
67. Adults should ensure that their behaviour is safe and that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They must ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded. It is a legal requirement that all passengers wear seatbelts and the driver should ensure that they do so. The driver should be aware of the current legislation concerning the use of car seats for younger children where applicable. It is illegal to drive using hand-held phones or similar devices and the driver must ensure that they adhere to all driving regulations.
68. It is inappropriate for adults to offer lifts to a pupil, unless the need has been agreed with a Senior Leader and another adult is accompanying them in the vehicle. If this falls outside their normal working duties parental consent must have been given.

69. There may be occasions where a pupil requires transport in an emergency situation or where not to give a lift may place a pupil at risk. Such circumstances must always be recorded and authorised by a Senior Leader and parents/carers.

Educational visits and school clubs

70. Adults should take particular care when supervising pupils in the less formal atmosphere of an educational visit, particularly in a residential setting, or after-school activity. Adults remain in a position of trust and the same standards of conduct apply. Adults must refer to Bourne Education Trust's policies on Educational Visits and Health, Safety and Welfare.

Curriculum

71. Some areas of the curriculum can include or raise a subject matter which is sexually explicit, of a political, cultural, religious or an otherwise sensitive nature. Care should be taken to ensure that resource materials cannot be misinterpreted and clearly relate to the learning outcomes identified by the lesson plan. This plan should highlight particular areas of risk and sensitivity. If an adult is unsure they must consult the head of subject/department or senior leader.
72. The curriculum can sometimes include or lead to an unplanned discussion about subject matter of a sexually explicit, political, cultural, religious or otherwise sensitive nature. Responding to pupils' questions can require careful judgement and adults must take guidance in these circumstances from the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Adults must not enter into or encourage inappropriate discussion about sexual, political or religious activity or behaviour or discussions which may offend or harm others. Adults should take care to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and should act in accordance with advice given under Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE) and accordingly must not express any prejudicial views or attempt to influence or impose their personal values, attitudes or beliefs on pupils.
73. Please refer to Bourne Education Trust's policy on sex and relationships education (SRE) and the policy on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), which promotes fundamental British values. Care should be taken to comply with these policies and ensure they are consistently applied.

Photography, videos, and other creative arts

74. Please refer to Bourne Education Trust's guidance on e-safety, the use of images and the consent forms therein. Adults should have regard to the ICO CCTV code of practice and the guidance 'Taking Photographs in Schools'.

75. Many educational activities involve the taking or recording of images. This may be undertaken as part of the curriculum, extra school activities, for displays, publicity, to celebrate achievement or, to provide evidence of the activity. An image of a child is personal data and it is, therefore, a requirement under data protection legislation that explicit consent is obtained from the parent/carer of a child before any images are made such as those used for School web sites, notice boards, productions or other purposes, unless an alternative legal justification for processing this data is applicable.
76. Adults need to be aware of the potential for such images to be taken and/or misused to create indecent images of children and/or for 'grooming' purposes. Careful consideration should be given as to how these activities are organised and undertaken. There should be an agreement as to whether the images will be destroyed or retained for further use, where these will be stored and who will have access to them.
77. Adults should remain sensitive to any pupil who appears uncomfortable and should recognise the potential for misinterpretation. It is also important to take into account the wishes of the child, remembering that some children do not wish to have their photograph taken.
78. Adults should only use equipment provided or authorised by Bourne Education Trust to make/take images and should not use personal equipment, mobile telephones or any other similar devices to make/take images.
79. The following guidance should be followed:
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the pupil
 - If the pupil is named, avoid using the photograph
 - Photographs/images must be securely stored and used only by those authorised to do so
 - Be clear about the purpose of the activity and about what will happen to the photographs/images when the lesson/activity is concluded
 - Only retain images when there is a clear and agreed purpose for doing so
 - Ensure that a senior colleague is aware that the photography/image equipment is being used and for what purpose
 - Ensure that all photographs/images are available for scrutiny in order to screen for acceptability
 - Be able to justify the photographs/images made
 - Images of pupils should not be taken for personal use
 - Images of pupils should only be taken with their consent and then only if the pupil is of an age to give that consent
 - Photographs should not be taken in one to one situations

- Photographs/images of pupils should not be displayed or distributed unless there is consent to do so from the parent/carer
- Images of pupils must only be published where they and their parent/carer have given explicit written consent for publication
- Images of pupils must not be taken in a state of undress or semi-undress
- Images of pupils must not be taken which could be considered as indecent or sexual
- Images of a child's injury, bruising or similar (e.g. following disclosure of abuse) must not be taken even if requested by children's social care
- Audio recordings of a child's disclosure must not be made.

Unacceptable use of ICT facilities and monitoring

80. This section should be read in conjunction with Bourne Education Trust's Acceptable Use of ICT Policy/Social Media Policy. Posting, creating, accessing, transmitting, downloading, uploading or storing any of the following material (unless it is part of an authorised investigation) is likely to amount to gross misconduct and result (where the adult is employed) in summary dismissal (this list is not exhaustive):

- Pseudo-images of children (child abuse images), pornographic or sexually suggestive material or images of children or adults which may be construed as such in the circumstances (that is, writing, texting, pictures, films and video clips of a sexually explicit or arousing nature)
- Any other type of offensive, obscene or discriminatory material, criminal material or material which is liable to cause distress or embarrassment to Bourne Education Trust or others.

81. If indecent images of children are discovered at the premises or on Bourne Education Trust's equipment/devices, an immediate referral should be made to Bourne Education Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher (unless they are implicated) and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and, if relevant, the police contacted. The images/equipment should be secured, should not be used by others and should be isolated from the network. There should be no attempt to view, tamper with or delete the images as this could jeopardise any necessary criminal investigation. If the images are of children known to Bourne Education Trust, a referral should also be made to children's social care in accordance with local arrangements.

82. The contents of our ICT resources and communications systems are our property. Therefore, adults should have no expectation of privacy in any message, files, data, document, facsimile, telephone conversation, social media post, conversation or message, or any other kind of information or communications transmitted to, received or printed from, or stored or recorded on our electronic information and communications systems. We reserve the right to monitor, intercept and review, without prior notification or authorisation from adults.

Usage of our IT resources and communications systems, including but not limited to telephone, e-mail, messaging, voicemail, CCTV, internet and social media postings and activities are monitored to ensure that our rules are being complied with and for the following purposes:

- To monitor whether the use of the e-mail system or the internet is legitimate and in accordance with this Code
- To assist in the investigation of alleged wrongful acts
- To comply with any legal obligation.

83. Adults should be aware that personal data will be stored in accordance with Bourne Education Trust's Privacy Notices. We may store copies of data or communications for a period of time after they are created and may delete such copies from time to time without notice. If necessary, information may be handed to the police in connection with a criminal investigation.

84. Adults should be aware that a CCTV system monitors most Bourne Education Trust properties 24 hours a day. This data is recorded and may be used as evidence of any alleged wrongdoing.

85. Cyber-bullying can be experienced by adults as well as pupils. Adults should notify the Headteacher or line manager in the case of centrally employed staff if they are subject to cyber-bullying. Bourne Education Trust will endeavour to protect adults and stop any inappropriate conduct.

Reporting concerns and recording incidents

86. All adults must report concerns and incidents in accordance with the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education and with reference to the Bourne Education Trust Statement for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff and/or the BET Whistleblowing Policy. In the event of an allegation being made, or incident being witnessed, the relevant information should be immediately recorded on CPOMS and reported to the Headteacher, or Designated Safeguarding Lead, as appropriate. If any concerns are raised via a third party, the Headteacher/line manager in the case of centrally employed staff or Designated Safeguarding Lead should collect as much evidence as possible. An employee who fails to bring a matter of concern to the attention of the appropriate adult or relevant agency may be subject to disciplinary action.

87. In addition to behaviours outlined elsewhere in this Code and, the types of abuse and neglect set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE, the following is a non-exhaustive list of some further behaviours of an adult which would be a cause for concern:

- Failing to act as an appropriate role model

- Allowing a pupil/young person to be treated badly; pretending not to know it is happening
- Gossiping/sharing information inappropriately
- Demonstrating inappropriate discriminatory behaviour and/or using inappropriate language
- Dressing in a way which is inappropriate for the job role
- Not treating pupils fairly; demonstrating favouritism
- Demonstrating a lack of understanding about personal and professional boundaries
- Using their position of trust to intimidate, threaten, coerce or undermine
- Appearing to have an inappropriate social relationship with a pupil or pupils
- Appearing to have special or different relationships with a pupil or pupils
- Seeming to seek out unnecessary opportunities to be alone with a pupil
- In respect of senior leaders, not following the BET Leadership Behaviours.

Monitoring and review

88. The CEO is responsible for monitoring the implementation, use and effectiveness of this policy and will report on these matters annually or more frequently if necessary.

89. This policy will be reviewed by the Trust executive as necessary.

Published date:	Autumn 2025
Author:	People Director
Approved by:	Bourne Education Trust
This policy is written with reference to:	Acas, DfE, EPM
Next review:	Summer 2026

Appendix A

Bourne Education Trust Staff Dress Code

The Bourne Education Trust Staff Dress Code is guided by the principles set out in legislation, namely:

1. The Equality Act 2010 which sets out the duty of an employer's Dress Code not to contravene prohibited direct or indirect discrimination in respect of the following 'protected characteristics' – age; disability; gender reassignment; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation, and
2. The Human Rights Act 1998 where Article 9 of the act sets out the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and Article 10, the right to freedom of expression.
3. We believe that staff should be able to dress according to their professional judgement unless this is detrimental to their capacity to do their job or is deemed unsafe or inappropriate for some other objective and reasonable reason. In this context, the principles outlined below should form part of an employee's decision-making process when considering whether their attire is appropriate:
4. All BET employees, pupils and visitors have a right to expect respect for their religious beliefs, cultural practices and gender-identity.
5. Forms of dress should not interfere with the teaching, learning and assessment process.
6. Health and safety of all stakeholders should be considered.
7. The considerations outlined above should be used regardless of whether an individual is working in a school, working from home or visiting any other premises in a professional capacity.
8. ID Badges must be worn at all times when on any BET site or when visiting other education establishments in a professional capacity.
9. In all circumstances, common sense should prevail and final decisions about the appropriateness, or otherwise, of an individual's attire will be at the Headteacher's/Core Group Member's discretion.

Public Sector Equality Duty

10. The Equality Act 2010 aims to ensure that people have equality of opportunity in accessing and experiencing public services. Schools will have regard to the following:
 - Eliminating discrimination;

- Advancing equality of opportunity and
- Fostering good relations across all characteristics.

11. BET will not discriminate against staff on grounds of disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy. This dress code has been developed with the PSED in mind and BET will be mindful of members of staff protected characteristics when applying and interpreting this dress code.

Review

12. This dress code will be reviewed on an annual basis and sooner if necessary due to changing legislation.

Acceptance

13. This agreement relates to the Code of Conduct and Appendix A Staff Dress Code above. All staff including those from supply agencies are required to familiarise themselves with the contents of Code of Conduct and Appendix A Staff Dress Code and to sign the agreement below.

I confirm that I have read understood and accept the Bourne Education Trust Code of Conduct and Appendix A Staff Dress Code and agree to abide by it.

Name:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Equality Impact Statement

Question		Response	
1. Name of policy/funding activity/event being assessed		BET Staff Code of Conduct 2025	
2. Summary of aims and objectives of the policy/funding activity/event		The Code sets out the professional standards expected and the duty upon to keep pupils safe, promote their welfare and to protect them from harm. Following the Code will help to safeguard adults from being maliciously, falsely or mistakenly suspected or accused of misconduct in relation to pupils	
3. What involvement and consultation has been done in relation to this policy? (e.g. with relevant groups and stakeholders)		The Code has been written using a template provided by EPM and with reference to previous versions and other relevant policies and statutory guidance, including KCSIE 2024, Prevent etc. The document has been reviewed by Core Group members. The Code will be distributed to Headteachers to present to staff. Headteachers will report back any staff concerns raised.	
4. Who is affected by the policy/funding activity/event?		All staff	
5. What are the arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the actual impact of the policy/funding activity or event?		Headteachers and line managers are responsible for monitoring adherence to the policy and reporting to Core Group and impact (negative or positive).	
Protected Characteristic Group	Is there a potential for positive or negative impact?	Please explain and give examples of any evidence/data used	Action to address negative impact (e.g. adjustment to the policy)
Disability	Yes - positive	The Code sets out very clearly expectations of respect, fairness and equality.	
Gender reassignment	Yes - positive	As above	
Marriage or civil partnership	Yes - positive	As above	

Pregnancy and maternity	Yes - positive	As above	
Race	Yes - positive	As above	
Religion or belief	Yes - positive	As above	
Sexual orientation	Yes - positive	As above	
Sex (gender)	Yes - positive	As above	
Age	Yes - positive	As above	

Evaluation

Question	Explanation / justification	
Is it possible the proposed policy or activity or change in policy or activity could discriminate or unfairly disadvantage people?	The authors and reviewers of the policy believe all necessary measures have been put in place to avoid discrimination or disadvantage. If any such circumstances are highlighted after approval then BET commits to reviewing and adapting the Code on the proviso that any such changes do not adversely affect others and, importantly, do not impact in any way our overarching responsibility to safeguarding.	
Final Decision:	Tick the relevant box	Include any explanation / justification required
1. No barriers identified therefore activity will proceed	✓	
2. The policy or practice has been stopped because the data shows bias towards one or more groups		
3. The policy has been changed and adapted in a way which we think will eliminate the bias		

<p>4. Barriers and impact identified, however having considered all available options carefully, there appear to be no other proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the policy or practice (e.g. in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision.</p>		
<p>Will this EIA be published* Yes/Not required (*EIA's should be published alongside relevant funding activities e.g. calls and events:</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Date completed:</p>	<p>27/05/2050</p>	
<p>Review date (if applicable):</p>	<p>Summer 2026</p>	

Name	Date	Version	Change
KS	31/08/22	1	
EH	27/08/24	2	
EH	27/05/25	3	