Staff Behavior Policy (Code of Conduct)

Kington St. Michael CE Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Policy agreed (date):	**29th September 2026**
Policy published (including on website) **(date):**	**29th September 2026**
Next review (date):	**29th September 2027**

Key Personnel			
Role	**Name**	**Tel.**	**Email**
Headteacher	Victoria O'Brien	01249 750454	head@ksm.wilts.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Victoria O'Brien	01249 750454	head@ksm.wilts.sch.uk
Deputy DSL(s) (DDSL)	Ellie Burfoot and Nicola Waylen	01249 750454	eburfoot@ksm.wilts.sch.uk nwaylen@ksm.wilts.sch.uk
Designated governor for safeguarding	Andrea Bridle	01249 750454	abridle@ksm.wilts.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Sara Pierson	01249 750454	spierson@ksm.wilts.sch.uk
The key safeguarding responsibilities within each of the roles above are set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026			

Designated Officer for Allegations	0300 456 0108
Children's Social Care referrals:	
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (IFD)	0300 456 0108
Out of hours:	0300 456 0100
If you believe a child is **at immediate risk** of significant harm or injury, you **must** call the police on 999.	

Introduction

Kington St. Michael C.E. Primary School is committed to providing positive academic, social and emotional outcomes for our children, underpinned by a strong safeguarding ethos. We are equally committed to the welfare of our staff, who are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional behaviour to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and colleagues.

The governors will make sure that this policy reflects national and local requirements to protect and support the children and adults in our school.

We will fulfil our local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following key documents:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- The procedures of Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP)

This policy:

- is based on the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (2022).
- aims to provide a guide for adults about acceptable and desirable conduct to ensure that staff maintain safe working practice and so safeguard both children and adults.
- does not provide a complete checklist of appropriate behaviour for staff in every circumstance. Staff must make judgements about their behaviour to secure the best interests and welfare of the children in their charge and, in so doing, will be seen to be acting reasonably.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Staff are expected to act immediately on concerns, share information appropriately, maintain professional curiosity, and place the welfare of the child at the centre of all decision making.

In *very exceptional* circumstances where a member of staff believes it is the best interest of a child to breach these guidelines, that person **must** tell the Headteacher of the justification for any proposed, or action already taken, at the earliest opportunity. The Headteacher will make a written record of that discussion including any areas of disagreement and actions taken.

Scope

This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the governors and should be read alongside the **Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the Staff Code of Conduct** as well as the following documents relevant to the safety and welfare of our children:

- Behaviour policy
- Health and safety policy
- Restrictive interventions policy
- SEND policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- AI policy
- Online/e-safety policy
- Complaints policy
- Mobile phone policy

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working at our school.

For the purposes of this policy:

- ‘Staff' refers to all those working for the school, full time or part time, on a temporary basis, or permanent, in a paid or regular voluntary capacity.

- A ‘volunteer’ is a person who performs an activity that involves spending time, unpaid in this school (except for approved expenses).

- A ‘position of trust’ is one in which one party is in a position of power or influence over another, due to their work or the nature of their activity.
- ‘Child’ refers to all children up to the age of 18. All adults are in positions of trust in relation to every child (and student over the age of 18) at our school.

It does not apply to employees of external contractors and providers of services (e.g., contract cleaners). Such staff are covered by the relevant Code of Conduct of their employing body.

Expectations

All staff:

- are familiar with this policy and have an opportunity to contribute to its review.
- understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All staff are aware that failure to meet the standards of behaviour and conduct in this policy may result in disciplinary action. This includes dismissal, criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity.

Mandatory Procedures

Confidentiality

The sorting and processing of personal information is governed by GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations 2018)

Child records are shared with those who have a professional need to see them. When staff have access to confidential information about colleagues, children or their parents/carers, the staff must treat such information in a sensitive and confidential way, sharing it only in the interests of a child and when legally permitted to do so.

Governors and trustees should not routinely access child records. Exceptions to this would be for the purpose of an investigation in line with the school’s complaint policy and procedures.

Staff, governors and trustees will not use their position to gain access to information for their own advantage and/or a child’s or family's detriment.

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is being abused, is at risk of being abused or may have been abused in the past, they will follow the agreed procedure set out in the flowchart ‘What to do if you are worried about a child’, displayed in the staff room and the staff toilet See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, 7th September 2026. Staff should ensure safeguarding records are factual, timely, accurate and clearly distinguish between observed facts, professional opinion and the views of the child or family.

If a member of staff is ever in any doubt about whether to share information or not, they should get advice from the designated safeguarding lead.

Staff relationships with children and parents

Staff responsibilities

All staff know that:

- they are in positions of trust in relation to all children (and students over the age of 18) on roll. They ensure that the power imbalance is never used for personal advantage or gratification. They avoid behaviour which might be interpreted by others as an abuse of the position of trust and report any incident with this potential to the manager. This includes sharing personal contact details with children or families.
- They have a legal duty to protect the interests of children and accept the obligations inherent in that responsibility.
- Staff are expected to exercise professional curiosity, maintain respectful uncertainty where appropriate, and challenge information that does not align with the child's presentation or lived experience.
- they must not establish or seek to establish social contact with children to secure a friendship or to pursue or strengthen a relationship.
- they must inform the Headteacher of any pre-existing (prior to the member of staff or child starting at the school) or new relationship with a child or close family member, which they feel, might compromise the school or their own professional standing.
- they should disclose any relationship or association (in the real world or online) that may impact on the school's ability to safeguard pupils.
- it is an offence (Sexual Offences Act 2003) for a member of staff in a position of trust to engage in **any** form of sexual activity with a child under the age of 18.

Certain behaviours are at odds with a position of trust. These include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or discrimination based on any characteristic protected by the Equality Act 2010
- Loss of personal civility including, personal attacks or insults, displays of temper (such as throwing objects), unwanted physical contact (pushing, shoving, hitting) or the threat of the same.
- Staff must not swear, blaspheme or use offensive language in front of pupils, nor use language which is discriminatory and demeaning in any way.

Such behaviours are disciplinary offences and may be referred to Local Authority and/or the police.

Communication with children and parents, including social contact outside of the workplace

Staff must use their professional judgement when requesting or accepting any social contact (including through social media). This means that they must:

- not accept any request from pupils for contact via any social media platform.
- make a judgement about whether to maintain the connection in any cases where contacts were made before the child started at the school (e.g., teacher being friend with a parent). Staff must discuss any decision to maintain such contact with the Headteacher.

We acknowledge that staff may have friendships and social contact with parents of children outside of school. Staff will not engage in conduct outside work that could damage their professional reputation or the reputation of the school community.

Any contact between staff and children and/or parents that is deemed to bring the school into disrepute or that might lead a reasonable person to question the staff member's motivation or intentions will always be investigated and could lead to disciplinary action.

Staff must not make sexual innuendos or any comments of a sexual nature to any pupil (other than in the context of sex and relationship education in the PSHE curriculum), nor make any comments trivialising alcohol or drug abuse.

Occasionally, pupils may develop an infatuation for a member of staff. In such situations, the advice of the Head/Deputy Head must be sought. Staff should deal with these situations sensitively and appropriately to maintain the dignity and safety of all concerned. They should remain aware, however, that such infatuations carry a high risk of words or actions being misinterpreted and should therefore make every effort to ensure that their own behaviour is beyond reproach.

Staff must inform the Headteacher of any proposed or pre-existing arrangements between them and the families of children on roll that take place outside school e.g., baby-sitting, sports coaching, music tuition.

Staff are advised to wait until after an ex-pupil's 18th birthday before accepting any request on social media.

Gifts, rewards, favouritism and exclusion

Staff must:

- declare any gift they receive form a parent or child. This does not include small tokens of appreciation such as at Christmas or the end of the year.
- not give gifts to individual children. Any rewards or treats will be given only as part of the school's agreed behaviour policy.
- advise the headteacher about the offer of any gift or hospitality, from outside or inside the school, which might be interpreted as an attempt to influence staff conduct towards children, parents or other employees.

Physical contact including intimate/personal care and behaviour management

It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact, since an action that is appropriate with one child, in one set of circumstances, may be inappropriate in another, or with a different child. Any physical contact will be in response to the child's needs, of limited duration and appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, background and any agreed support or care plan.

Staff understand that:

- on a daily basis, it may be entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with children and that they do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in relation to the child's individual needs.
- some children are more comfortable with touch than others and/or may be more comfortable with touch from some adults than others. Whenever possible, adults seek the child's permission before initiating contact and are sensitive to any signs that the child may be uncomfortable *or* embarrassed.
- they have a responsibility to ensure the way they offer comfort to a distressed child is age appropriate.
- they must never touch a child in a way which may represent a misuse of authority or considered indecent.

- physical contact must never be secretive, or for the gratification of the adult.
- they should be aware of cultural or religious views about touching and be sensitive to the issues of gender.

If a member of staff believes that an action by them or a colleague could be misinterpreted, or if an action is observed which is possibly abusive, the incident and circumstances will be immediately reported to the headteacher/DSL and recorded in writing. If appropriate, the Headteacher will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer for allegations (LADO).

Staff understand that a child who has suffered previous abuse or neglect may associate physical contact with such experiences. They recognise that such a child may seek out inappropriate physical contact and know to deter the child sensitively to help them to understand the importance of personal boundaries. Staff know that they must never indulge in play that involves rough-and-tumble or fun fights.

Children with disabilities may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The arrangements are understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the child's needs, consistently applied and open to scrutiny. Staff always allow/encourage children, where able, to undertake self-care tasks independently.

The use of physical intervention including the use of reasonable force, seclusion and non-force related restraint will always be in line with the following policies (Special Needs policy, Supporting children with medical needs policy, Behaviour policy, Physical Intervention policy/procedures.

Where a child is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation and their behaviour presents a serious risk to themselves or others seclusion may be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm. The pupil must be always supervised during the period of seclusion. As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the pupil should be allowed to leave. Seclusion is not a disciplinary response to deliberate or wilful misbehaviour. There are disciplinary measures that are similar, such as removal from the classroom. Staff should refer to the school's behaviour policy.

Incidents must be recorded as soon as practicable after the event. It should be recorded by the staff member(s) involved and they should endeavour to do this no later than the same day (Education and Inspections Act 2006). A robust risk assessment and, where relevant, a physical intervention plan is always put in place and reviewed regularly.

First aid

Staff adhere to the school health and safety policy, the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and for administering first aid or medication.

One to one situations

Staff carefully consider the welfare needs of children when with them in a one-to-one situation. All spaces in the school are set up to allow any activity to be easily observed by other staff in the school. Windows and doors are kept clear from display materials to allow rooms to be overlooked. Internal doors remain open when practicable. See school lone working procedures/policy.

Children are provided with age/developmentally appropriate advice about managing distressing feelings that may arise during 1-1 situations in school. Staff will record any time a child has appeared upset/angry during a 1-1 session and will report this to their line manager.

Home visits and transporting children See school lone working procedures/policy.
All work with children and parents/carers is whenever possible undertaken in the school. There are however occasions where it may be necessary to arrange a home visit e.g., as part of child's induction programme, during changes in operating practice due to a pandemic.

In such situations, these activities will only be undertaken with the knowledge and consent of senior leadership and parents/carers (unless there is a good reason not to, e.g., safeguarding concern). Where possible staff will work in pairs. A risk assessment will be undertaken and school will ensure staff understand the purpose and limitations of their home visit. Any member of staff transporting a child in their own vehicle will:

- have prior written permission from parents and the school Head Teacher
- have the appropriate vehicle insurance for business use
- have the correct ratio of children/adults
- ensure that all passengers wear seat belts
- ensure booster seats are used according to the current legislation

Educational Visits and After-School Activities
Staff remain in a position of trust during school activities that take place off the school site or out of school hours and so, they will ensure that their behaviour cannot be interpreted as seeking to establish an inappropriate relationship or friendship.

Organisers will conduct risk assessments and adhere to Health and Safety guidelines. Staff/child ratios will be specified and where overnight stays are involved, and the composition of groups of children and the supervising staff will be carefully planned to keep all children and staff safe.

Where out of school activities include overnight stays, careful consideration will be given to sleeping arrangements as part of the planning process. Children, staff and parents will be informed of these arrangements prior to the start of the trip and any proposed changes to the plans will be agreed with senior staff in the school in advance. Staff will not smoke or consume alcohol on any school trip.

Health and Safety arrangements require members of staff to keep colleagues aware of their whereabouts, during an out of school activity. This means staff will always have another adult present in out of school activities, unless otherwise agreed with senior staff in the school.

Staff appearance (Also applies to online and virtual teaching)
Staff must dress smartly, in clothing appropriate to the role, compliant with professional standards and not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative. It should not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding. Political slogans must be avoided.

Any staff with tattoos that might be viewed as offensive, provocative or likely to give rise to misunderstanding must ensure those tattoos always remain covered when that adult is working for the school.

The acceptable use of technologies
Personal mobile phones should only be used in designated staff areas and during approved break times **only if there are no children present in the classroom** unless there is an emergency or operational requirement.

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

Staff must be circumspect 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 directly or by association with websites/pages or posts established by others (e.g., 'liking', reposting or forwarding). This includes the use of dating websites where staff could encounter parents or students either with their own profile or acting covertly.

They must consider the long-term implications of any content published by them online, specifically how it might ever have an adverse effect:

- on their reputation as an individual working in an education setting
- their ability to maintain good professional boundaries with parents and with children
- on the reputation of the school.

Staff must not access any content from the internet on personal device during school hours, on the school site, or on a school computer or device at any time that could bring the school into disrepute or that might lead a reasonable person to question the staff member's motivation or intentions

All staff are aware of their part in ensuring the DFE Filtering and monitoring standards and cyber security standards are upheld. If staff become aware of misuse by another member of staff (in or out of school), they must report those concerns using the concerns and allegations against staff (including supply teachers, third-party & self-employed staff, volunteers, contractors) procedures. These procedures now include adults from organisations or individuals using school premises procedures.

Staff may use AI as a tool to support their work, but remain accountable for all content, decisions and actions. AI must never replace professional judgement, compromise confidentiality, or be used in a way that places children at risk. Staff must not enter identifiable pupil, family or staff information into publicly available AI systems unless explicitly approved by the school and compliant with data protection requirements.

Exceptional operating circumstances

If the school is required to change the way we offer our provision to children due to exceptional circumstances e.g., during a pandemic lockdown, staff safeguarding responsibilities to children will continue to apply, in line with the safeguarding policy.

The DSL will ensure staff, children, and families are provided with written:

- temporary changes to procedures for working with children e.g., online.
- timescales for such changes so that all children, families and staff understand when such arrangements will end, and arrangements revert to those in place prior to the events leading to the need for the temporary changes.

Photography and recording

Staff are not permitted to use their phones, cameras, smart technology, or any device that can be used for photographing or recording children, when on duty for any purpose. Phones are switched off and left in staff bags during the school day. Any pictures taken of children by the school will be in accordance to the school Mobile phone and camera published procedures.

Staff will not:

- take images of a child's injury, bruising or similar (e.g., following a disclosure of abuse)
- make audio recordings of a child's disclosure.

Concerns and allegations against staff (including supply teachers, trainee teachers, third-party & self-employed staff volunteers and contractors, and adults from organisations or individuals using the school premises)

If a member of staff is concerned about the behaviour of a person working or volunteering at the school (including contractors), they will follow the agreed procedure set out in the flowchart 'Allegation against adults', displayed in the staff room and staff toilet See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Kington St. Michael C.E. Primary School operates a 'low-level' concerns policy in accordance with KCSIE. 'Low-level' refers to behaviour that is: inconsistent with expectations set out in this policy, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and/or does not meet the allegations threshold, or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All concerns, no matter how small, will be shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will serve our commitment to create and embed a culture of openness, trust, and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviour set out in this policy are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

'Low-level' concerns could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children;
- having favourites;
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a
- closed door; or,
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.
- Excessive or personal messaging
- sharing personal information
- private transport arrangements outside agreed procedures
- inappropriate use of AI or technology

We also encourage all staff to self-refer to their line manager or DSL where they have 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.

Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers are expected and encouraged to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school safeguarding regime. All staff within the school who wish to raise an issue relating to the organisation with someone in confidence can use the following whistleblowing procedures:

In the first instance, concerns about poor or unsafe practice within must be raised with: DSL (Mrs. Victoria O'Brien)

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with Victoria O'Brien or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:

- A member of the governing body: Mr. Rob Griffin (Whistleblowing Governor)

- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk if:
  - they think the concern will not be dealt with properly or
  - may be covered up or
  - if they raised a concern but it has not been acted upon or if they are worried they are being treated unfairly.

Training

All members of staff and volunteers have read and signed to confirm they understand this Staff Behaviour Policy.

Induction

The welfare of all children on roll is of paramount importance. All staff including volunteers are informed of this policy at induction and given the chance to question and discuss the expectations set out.

Staff support

Work in schools is both rewarding and demanding. We support staff by prioritising time to discuss the challenges of their role linked to any aspect of this Staff Behaviour Policy with their line manager and seek further support as appropriate.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually or earlier as required by changes to legislation or statutory guidance.