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# Kingsbrook School

*'A unique service for unique young people'*

## Code of Conduct

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# Kingsbrook School Code of Conduct

## **Purpose:**

This document is a guide by which all employees should carry out their duties. The principles in this Code of Conduct are ones that should be accepted by all professionals working with young people on our site.

## **Underpinning Principles:**

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Staff should understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of students
- Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- Staff should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way
- Staff should acknowledge that deliberately invented/malicious allegations are extremely rare and that all concerns should be reported and recorded
- Staff should discuss and/or take advice promptly from their line manager if they have acted in a way which may give rise to concern
- Staff should apply the same professional standards regardless of culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation
- Staff should not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including prescribed medication, which may affect their ability to care for children
- Staff should be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against them; criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity, or for acts of serious misconduct prohibition from teaching by the National College of Teaching & Leadership (NCTL).
- Staff and managers should continually monitor and review practice to ensure this guidance is followed
- Staff should be aware of and understand Kingsbrook's child protection policy, arrangements for managing allegations against staff, staff behaviour policy, whistle blowing procedure and their Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB procedures

## **Introduction:**

Adults have a crucial role to play in the lives of children. This guidance has been produced to help establish the safest possible learning and working environments which safeguard children and reduce the risk of them being falsely accused of improper or unprofessional conduct.

## **Responsibilities:**

Staff are accountable for the way in which they exercise authority, manage risk, use resources and safeguard children.

All staff have a responsibility to keep students safe and to protect them from abuse (sexual, physical and emotional), neglect and safeguarding concerns. Students have a right to be safe and to be treated with respect and dignity. It follows that trusted adults are expected to take reasonable steps to ensure their safety and well-being. Failure to do so may be regarded as professional misconduct.

This means that staff should:

- understand the responsibilities which are part of their employment or role, and be aware that sanctions will be applied if these provisions are breached
- always act, and be seen to act, in the child's best interests
- avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour

This means that employers should:

- promote a culture of openness and support
- ensure that systems are in place for concerns to be raised
- ensure that adults are not placed in situations which render them particularly vulnerable
- ensure that all adults are aware of expectations, policies and procedures

This means that Managers / Proprietors/ Governing Bodies should:

- ensure that appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies are in place and working effectively

The safeguarding culture of a school is, in part, exercised through the development of respectful, caring and professional relationships between adults and students and behaviour by the adult that demonstrates integrity, maturity and good judgement.

The public, local authorities, employers and parents/carers will have expectations about the nature of professional involvement in the lives of children. When individuals accept a role working at Kingsbrook they should understand and acknowledge the responsibilities and trust involved in that role.

## **Making professional judgements:**

This guidance cannot provide a complete checklist of what is, or is not, appropriate behaviour for staff. It does highlight however, behaviour which is illegal, inappropriate or inadvisable. There will

be rare occasions and circumstances in which staff have to make decisions or take action in the best interest of a student which could contravene this guidance or where no guidance exists.

Individuals are expected to make judgements about their behaviour in order to secure the best interests and welfare of the students in their charge and, in so doing, will be seen to be acting reasonably. These judgements should always be recorded and shared with the Head of School.

Adults should always consider whether their actions are warranted, proportionate, and safe and applied equitably.

### **Power and positions of trust and authority:**

As a result of their knowledge, position and/or the authority invested in their role, all those working with children in a school or education setting are in a position of trust in relation to all students on the roll.

The relationship between a person working with a young person is one in which the adult has a position of power or influence. It is vital for adults to understand this power; that the relationship cannot be one between equals and the responsibility they must exercise as a consequence.

The potential for exploitation and harm of vulnerable students means that adults have a responsibility to ensure that an unequal balance of power is not used for personal advantage or gratification.

This means that staff should not:

- use their position to gain access to information for their own advantage and/or a student's or family's detriment
- use their power to intimidate, threaten, coerce or undermine students
- use their status and standing to form or promote relationships with students which are of a sexual nature, or which may become so

Staff should always maintain appropriate professional boundaries, avoid behaviour which could be misinterpreted by others and report and record any such incident.

Where a person aged 18 or over is in a position of trust with a child under 18, it is 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.

### **Confidentiality:**

Staff may have access to confidential information about students and their families which must be kept confidential at all times and only shared when legally permissible to do so and in the interest of the child. Records should only be shared with those who have a legitimate professional need to see them.

Staff should never use confidential or personal information about a student or her/his family for their own, or others advantage (including that of partners, friends, relatives or other organisations). Information must never be used to intimidate, humiliate, or embarrass the child. Confidential information should never be used casually in conversation or shared with any person other than on a need-to-know basis. In circumstances where the student's identity does not need to be disclosed the information should be used anonymously.

There are some circumstances in which a member of staff may be expected to share information about a student, for example when abuse is alleged or suspected. In such cases, individuals have a responsibility to pass information on without delay, but only to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities.

If a child – or their parent / carer – makes a disclosure regarding abuse or neglect, the member of staff should follow the schools procedures. The adult should not promise confidentiality to a child or parent, but should give reassurance that the information will be treated sensitively.

If a member of staff is in any doubt about whether to share information or keep it confidential he or she should seek guidance from the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Any media or legal enquiries should be passed to senior management.

This means that staff:

- need to know the name of their Designated Safeguarding Lead and be familiar with LSCB child protection procedures and guidance
- are expected to treat information they receive about students and families in a discreet and confidential manner
- should seek advice from a senior member of staff (designated safeguarding lead) if they are in any doubt about sharing information they hold or which has been requested of them
- need to be clear about when information can/ must be shared and in what circumstances
- need to know the procedures for responding to allegations against staff and to whom any concerns or allegations should be reported
- need to ensure that where personal information is recorded using modern technologies that systems and devices are kept secure

### **Standards of behaviour:**

All staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and those with whom they work.

There may be times where an individual's actions in their personal life come under scrutiny from the community, the media or public authorities, including with regard to their own children, or children or adults in the community. Staff should be aware that their behaviour, either in or out of the workplace, could compromise their position within the work setting in relation to the protection of children, loss of trust and confidence, or bringing the employer into disrepute. Such behaviour may

also result in -, prohibition from teaching by the NCTL, a bar from engaging in regulated activity or action by another relevant regulatory body.

This means that staff should not:

- behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or to act as an appropriate role model
- make, or encourage others to make sexual remarks to, or about, a student
- use inappropriate language to, or in the presence of, students
- discuss their personal or sexual relationships with, or in the presence of, students
- make (or encourage others to make) unprofessional personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate, or might be interpreted as such

This means that staff should:

- be aware that behaviour by themselves, those with whom they share a household, or others in their personal lives, may impact on their work with children

### **Dress and appearance:**

A person's dress and appearance are matters of personal choice and self-expression and some individuals will wish to exercise their own cultural customs. However, staff should select a manner of dress and appearance appropriate to their professional role and which may be necessarily different to that adopted in their personal life. At Kingsbrook this clothing will be 'smart casual' (please ask Head of School for advice if unsure of what this phrase describes).

Staff should ensure they are dressed decently, safely and appropriately for the tasks they undertake. Those who dress or appear in a manner which could be viewed as offensive or inappropriate will render themselves vulnerable to criticism, allegation or disciplinary procedures.

This means that staff should wear clothing which:

- promotes a positive and professional image
- is appropriate to their role
- is not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing, or sexually provocative
- does not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding
- is absent of any political or otherwise contentious slogan
- is not considered to be discriminatory
- is compliant with professional standards

### **Gifts, rewards, favouritism and exclusion:**

Staff need to take care that they do not accept any gift that might be construed as a bribe by others, or lead the giver to expect preferential treatment.

There are occasions when students or parents wish to pass small tokens of appreciation to staff e.g. at Christmas or as a thank-you and this is usually acceptable. However, it is unacceptable to receive gifts on a regular basis or of any significant value. Staff must divulge all gifts received with the Head of School who will check on the appropriateness of the gift.

Similarly, it is not acceptable to give such personal gifts to students or their families. This could be interpreted as a gesture either to bribe or groom. It might also be perceived that a 'favour' of some kind is expected in return.

Any reward given to a student should be in accordance with agreed practice, consistent with the schools reward and behaviour policy, recorded and not based on favouritism.

Adults should exercise care when selecting children for specific activities, jobs or privileges in order to avoid perceptions of favouritism or injustice. Similar care should be exercised when students are excluded from an activity. Methods of selection and exclusion should always be subject to clear, fair, agreed criteria.

This means that staff should:

- be aware of and understand the relevant policies, e.g. rewarding positive behaviour
- ensure that gifts received or given in situations which may be misconstrued are declared and recorded
- only give gifts to a student as part of an agreed reward system
- ensure that all selection processes of students are fair and these are undertaken and agreed by more than one member of staff
- ensure that they do not behave in a manner which is either favourable or unfavourable to individual students

### **Infatuations and 'crushes':**

All staff need to recognise that it is not uncommon for students to be strongly attracted to a member of staff and/or develop a 'crush' or infatuation. They should make every effort to ensure that their own behaviour cannot be brought into question, does not appear to encourage this and be aware that such infatuations may carry a risk of their words or actions being misinterpreted.

Any member of staff who receives a report, overhears something, or otherwise notices any sign, however small or seemingly insignificant, that a young person has become or may be becoming infatuated with either themselves or a colleague, should immediately report this to the Head of School or most senior manager. In this way appropriate early intervention can be taken which can prevent escalation and avoid hurt, embarrassment or distress for those concerned.

The Head of School (or senior manager) will give careful thought to those circumstances where the staff member, student and their parents/carers should be spoken to and should ensure a plan to manage the situation is put in place. This plan should respond sensitively to the child and staff member and maintain the dignity of all. This plan will involve all parties, be robust and regularly monitored and reviewed.

This means that staff should:

- report any indications (verbal, written or physical) that suggest a student may be infatuated with a member of staff
- always maintain professional boundaries

This means that senior managers should:

- put action plans in place where concerns are brought to their attention

### **Social contact outside of the workplace:**

It is acknowledged that staff may have genuine friendships and social contact with parents of students, independent of their professional relationship. Staff should, however, also be aware that professionals who sexually harm children often seek to establish relationships and contact outside of the workplace with both the child and their parents, in order to 'groom' the adult and the child and/or create opportunities for sexual abuse.

Staff should recognise that some types of social contact with students or their families could be perceived as harmful or exerting inappropriate influence on children, and may bring the school into disrepute (e.g. attending a political protest, circulating propaganda).

If a student or parent seeks to establish social contact, or if this occurs coincidentally, the member of staff should exercise her/his professional judgement. This also applies to social contacts made through outside interests or the staff member's own family.

Some staff may, as part of their professional role, be required to support a parent or carer. If that person comes to depend upon the staff member or seeks support outside of their professional role this should be discussed with the Head of School and where necessary referrals made to the appropriate support agency.

### **Communication with children (including the use of technology)**

In order to make best use of the many educational and social benefits of new and emerging technologies, students need opportunities to use and explore the digital world. E-safety risks are posed more by behaviours and values than the technology itself.

Staff should ensure that they establish safe and responsible online behaviours, working to local and national guidelines and acceptable use policies which detail how new and emerging technologies may be used. Communication with children both in the 'real' world and through web based and telecommunication interactions should take place within explicit professional boundaries. This includes the use of computers, tablets, phones, texts, e-mails, instant messages, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, chat-rooms, forums, blogs, websites, gaming sites, digital cameras, videos, web-cams and other hand held devices. (Given the ever changing world of technology it should be noted that this list gives examples only and is not exhaustive.)

Staff should not request or respond to any personal information from children other than which may be necessary in their professional role. They should ensure that their communications are open and transparent and avoid any communication which could be interpreted as 'grooming behaviour'

Staff should not give their personal contact details to children for example, e-mail address, home or mobile telephone numbers, details of web based identities. If children locate these by any other means and attempt to contact or correspond with the staff member, the adult should not respond and must report the matter to their manager. The child should be firmly and politely informed that this is not acceptable.

Staff should, in any communication with children, also follow the guidance in the section '**Standards of Behaviour**'.

Staff should adhere to the schools policies, including those with regard to communication with parents and carers and the information they share when using the internet.

This means that adults should:

- not seek to communicate/make contact or respond to contact with students outside of the purposes of their work
- not give out their personal details
- use only equipment and Internet services provided by the school
- follow the schools Acceptable Use policy
- ensure that their use of technologies could not bring Priory Group into disrepute

### **Physical contact**

There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with children, however, it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in relation to the student's individual needs and any agreed care plan.

Not all children feel comfortable about certain types of physical contact; this should be recognised and, wherever possible, adults should seek the student's permission before initiating contact and be sensitive to any signs that they may be uncomfortable or embarrassed. Staff should acknowledge that some students are more comfortable with touch than others and/or may be more comfortable with touch from some adults than others. Staff should listen, observe and take note of the child's reaction or feelings and, so far as is possible, use a level of contact and/or form of communication which is acceptable to the student.

It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact, since an action that is appropriate with one student, in one set of circumstances, may be inappropriate in another, or with a different child.

Any physical contact should be in response to the child's needs at the time, of limited duration and appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity and background. Adults should therefore, use their professional judgement at all times.

Physical contact should never be secretive, or for the gratification of the adult, or represent a misuse of authority. 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 should be immediately reported to the Head of School and recorded. Where appropriate, the Head of School will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer.

Extra caution should be exercised where it is known that a child has suffered previous abuse or neglect. Staff need to be aware that the child may associate physical contact with such experiences. They also should recognise that these students may seek out inappropriate physical contact. In such circumstances staff should deter the child sensitively and help them to understand the importance of personal boundaries.

A general culture of 'safe touch' should be adopted, where appropriate, to the individual requirements of each child. Students with disabilities may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The arrangements should be understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the student's needs, consistently applied and open to scrutiny.

This means that staff should:

- be aware that even well intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by the student, an observer or any person to whom this action is described
- never touch a student in a way which may be considered indecent
- always be prepared to explain actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny
- never indulge in 'horseplay' or fun fights with students
- always allow/encourage students, where able, to undertake self-care tasks independently
- ensure the way they offer comfort to a distressed student is age appropriate
- always tell a colleague when and how they offered comfort to a distressed student
- establish the preferences of students
- consider alternatives, where it is anticipated that a student might misinterpret or be uncomfortable with physical contact
- always explain to the student the reason why contact is necessary and what form that contact will take
- report and record situations which may give rise to concern
- be aware of cultural or religious views about touching and be sensitive to issues of gender

### **Other activities that require physical contact**

In certain curriculum areas, such as PE, drama or music, staff may need to initiate some physical contact with children, for example, to demonstrate technique in the use of a piece of equipment, adjust posture, or support a child so they can perform an activity safely or prevent injury.

Physical contact should take place only when it is necessary in relation to a particular activity. It should take place in a safe and open environment i.e. one easily observed by others and last for the minimum time necessary. The extent of the contact should be made clear and undertaken with the

permission of the student. Contact should be relevant to their age / understanding and adults should remain sensitive to any discomfort expressed verbally or non-verbally by the student.

Guidance and protocols around safe and appropriate physical contact may be provided, for example, by sports governing bodies and should be understood and applied consistently. Any incidents of physical contact that cause concern or fall outside of these protocols and guidance should be reported to the Head of School and parent or carer.

It is good practice if all parties clearly understand at the outset, what physical contact is necessary and appropriate in undertaking specific activities. Keeping parents/carers and students informed of the extent and nature of any physical contact may also prevent allegations of misconduct or abuse arising.

This means that staff should:

- treat students with dignity and respect and avoid contact with intimate parts of the body
- always explain to a student the reason why contact is necessary and what form that contact will take
- seek consent of parents where a student is unable to give this e.g. because of a disability
- consider alternatives, where it is anticipated that a student might misinterpret any such contact
- be familiar with and follow recommended guidance and protocols
- conduct activities where they can be seen by others
- be aware of gender, cultural and religious issues that may need to be considered prior to initiating physical contact

This means that school should:

- have in place up to date guidance and protocols on appropriate physical contact, that promote safe practice and include clear expectations of behaviour and conduct
- ensure that staff are made aware of this guidance and that it is continually promoted

### **Intimate / personal care**

This is not something that will be part of usual practice at Kingsbrook School.

### **Behaviour management**

Corporal punishment and smacking is unlawful in all schools. Staff should not use any form of degrading or humiliating treatment to punish a child. The use of sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments towards children is completely unacceptable.

Where students display behaviours that challenge adults should follow the school's behaviour and discipline policy using strategies appropriate to the circumstance and situation.

Where a student has specific needs in respect of particularly challenging behaviour, a positive handling plan, including assessment of risk, should be drawn up and agreed by all parties. The legislation on these strategies is complex and staff should take extreme care to avoid any practice that could be viewed as unlawful, a breach of the student's human rights and/or false imprisonment.

This means that staff should:

- not use force as a form of punishment
- try to defuse situations before they escalate e.g. by distraction
- keep parents informed of any sanctions or behaviour management techniques used
- be mindful of and sensitive to factors both inside and outside of the school or setting which may impact on a student's behaviour
- follow the establishment's behaviour management policy
- behave as a role model
- avoid shouting at children other than as a warning in an emergency/safety situation
- refer to the schools policy and guidance regarding Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)
- be aware of the legislation and potential risks associated with the use of isolation and seclusion
- comply with legislation and guidance in relation to human rights and restriction of liberty

### **The use of control and physical intervention**

The law and guidance for schools states that adults may reasonably intervene to prevent a child from:

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in behaviour prejudicial to good order
- to maintain good order and discipline (not applicable to care staff in Children's home)

Great care must be exercised in order that adults do not physically intervene in a manner which could be considered unlawful.

Under no circumstances should physical force be used as a form of punishment. The use of unwarranted or disproportionate physical force is likely to constitute a criminal offence. Where the school or setting judges that a child's behaviour presents a serious risk to themselves or others, they must always put in place a robust risk assessment which is reviewed regularly and, where relevant, a physical intervention plan.

In all cases where physical intervention has taken place, it is recorded and reported on in line with the relevant policy.

Similarly, where it can be anticipated that physical intervention is likely to be required, a plan will be put in place which the student and parents/carers are aware of and have agreed to. Parental consent does not permit settings to use unlawful physical intervention or deprive a student of their liberty.

This means that school should:

- ensure that they have a lawful physical intervention policy consistent with local and national guidance
- regularly acquaint staff with policy and guidance
- ensure that staff are provided with appropriate training and support
- have an agreed policy for when and how physical interventions should be recorded and reported

This means that staff should:

- adhere to the school physical intervention policy
- always seek to defuse situations through agreed de-escalation strategies and avoid the use of physical intervention wherever possible
- where physical intervention is necessary, only use minimum force and for the shortest time needed

This means that staff should not:

- use physical intervention as a form of punishment

## **Sexual conduct**

Any sexual behaviour by a member of staff with or towards a student is unacceptable. It is an offence for a member of staff in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a student less than 18 years of age and sexual activity with a child would be reported to the Police as a criminal matter and would result in disciplinary procedures leading to dismissal.

Students are protected by the same laws as adults in relation to non-consensual sexual behaviour. They are additionally protected by specific legal provisions depending on their age and understanding.

Sexual activity involves physical contact including penetrative and non-penetrative acts; however it also includes non-contact activities, such as causing students to engage in or watch sexual activity or the production of pornographic material.

There are occasions when adults embark on a course of behaviour known as 'grooming' where the purpose is to gain the trust of a child, and manipulate the relationship so sexual abuse can take place. All staff will undertake appropriate training so they are fully aware of those behaviours that may constitute 'grooming' and of their responsibility to always report to a senior manager any concerns about the behaviour of a colleague which could indicate that a student is being groomed.

This means that staff should:

- not have any form of sexual contact with a student from the school
- avoid any form of touch or comment which is, or may be considered to be, indecent
- avoid any communication with a student which could be interpreted as sexually suggestive, provocative or give rise to speculation e.g. verbal comments, letters, notes, by email or on social media, phone calls, texts, physical contact
- not make sexual remarks to or about a student
- not discuss sexual matters with or in the presence of students other than within agreed curriculum content or as part of their recognised job role

### **Lone Working**

Staff working in one to one situations with students at the school, including visiting staff from external organisations, can be more vulnerable to allegations or complaints.

To safeguard both students and adults, a risk assessment in relation to the specific nature and implications of one to one work should always be undertaken. Each assessment should take into account the individual needs of each student and should be reviewed regularly.

Arranging to meet with students from the school away from the work premises is not permitted unless the necessity for this is clear and approval is obtained from a senior member of staff, the student and their parents/carers.

This means that staff should:

- ensure that wherever possible there is visual access and/or an open door in one to one situations
- never use 'engaged' or equivalent signs wherever possible. Such signs may create an opportunity for secrecy or the interpretation of secrecy
- always report any situation where a student becomes distressed or angry
- consider the needs and circumstances of the student involved

### **Home visits**

All work with students and parents should usually be undertaken in the school or other recognised workplace. There are however occasions, in response to an urgent, planned or specific situation or job role, where it is necessary to make one-off or regular home visits.

It is essential that appropriate policies and related risk assessments are in place to safeguard both staff and students, who can be more vulnerable in these situations.

A risk assessment should be undertaken prior to any planned home visit taking place. The assessment should include an evaluation of any known factors regarding the student, parents/carers and any others living in the household. Consideration should be given to any circumstances which

might render the staff member becoming more vulnerable to an allegation being made e.g. hostility, child protection concerns, complaints or grievances.

Specific thought should be given to visits outside of 'office hours' or in remote or secluded locations. Following the assessment, appropriate risk management measures should be put in place, before the visit is undertaken. In the unlikely event that little or no information is available, visits should not be made alone.

This means that staff should:

- agree the purpose for any home visit with their manager
- adhere to agreed risk management strategies
- avoid unannounced visits wherever possible
- ensure there is visual access and/or an open door in one to one situations
- always make detailed records including times of arrival and departure
- ensure any behaviour or situation which gives rise to concern is discussed with their manager

This means that at Kingsbrook we should:

- ensure that we have home visit and lone-working policies which all adults are made aware of. These should include arrangements for risk assessment and management
- ensure that all visits are justified and recorded
- ensure that staff are not exposed to unacceptable risk
- make clear to staff that, other than in an emergency, they should not enter a home if the parent/carer is absent
- ensure that staff have access to a mobile telephone and an emergency contact

## **Transporting students**

In certain situations staff may be required or offer to transport students as part of their work. As for any other activity undertaken at work, the employer has a duty to carry out a risk assessment covering the health and safety of their staff and to manage any known risks.

Staff should not offer lifts to students unless the need for this has been agreed by a manager. A designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transport arrangements and respond to any concerns that may arise.

Transport must not be undertaken in private vehicles. School cars must be used and with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort.

It is a legal requirement that all passengers wear seatbelts and the driver should ensure that they do so. They should also be aware of and adhere to current legislation regarding the use of car seats for younger children.

This means that staff should:

- plan and agree arrangements with all parties in advance

- respond sensitively and flexibly where any concerns arise
- take into account any specific or additional needs of the student
- have an appropriate licence/permit for the vehicle
- ensure they are fit to drive and free from any drugs, alcohol or medicine which is likely to impair judgement and/ or ability to drive
- ensure that if they need to be alone with a student this is for the minimum time
- be aware that the safety and welfare of the student is their responsibility until this is safely passed over to a parent/carer
- report the nature of the journey, the route and expected time of arrival in accordance with agreed procedures
- ensure that their behaviour and all arrangements ensure vehicle, passenger and driver safety. This includes having proper and appropriate insurance for the type of vehicle being driven
- ensure that any impromptu or emergency arrangements of lifts are recorded and can be justified

## **Educational visits**

Staff responsible for organising educational visits should be familiar with Kingsbrook's Educational Visits Policy and the Department for Education's advice on Health and Safety available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthand-safety-advice-for-schools>

The duties in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the supporting regulations apply to activities taking place on or off the school premises (including school visits) in Great Britain. Kingsbrook has a Health and Safety policy and a policy and procedure for educational visits and activities.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) impose a duty on employers to produce suitable and sufficient risk assessments. This would include assessment of any risks to employees, children or others during an educational visit, and the measures that should be taken to minimise these risks. For regular activities, such as taking students to a local swimming pool, the risks should be considered under the school's general arrangements and a check to make sure that the precautions remain suitable is all that is required. For annual or infrequent activities, a review of an existing assessment may be all that is needed. For new higher-risk activities or trips, a specific assessment of the significant risks should be carried out.

Staff should take particular care when supervising students in the less formal atmosphere of an educational visit where a more relaxed discipline or informal dress and language code may be acceptable. However, staff remain in a position of trust and need to ensure that their behaviour cannot be interpreted as seeking to establish an inappropriate relationship or friendship.

This means that staff should:

- adhere to their organisation's educational visits guidance
- always have another adult present on visits, unless otherwise agreed with senior staff
- undertake risk assessments

- have parental consent to the activity
- ensure that their behaviour remains professional at all times

### **First Aid and medication**

All schools should have an adequate number of qualified first-aiders. Parents should be informed when first aid has been administered.

Any member of school staff may be asked to become a qualified first-aider or to provide support to students with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, but they cannot be required to do so unless this forms part of their contract of employment

Staff should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

Advice on managing medicines is included in the statutory guidance on supporting students at school with medical conditions. In circumstances where a student needs medication regularly, this would usually be recorded in their individual healthcare plan. This provides details of the level and type of support a child needs to manage effectively their medical condition in school and should include information about the medicine to be administered, the correct dosage and any storage requirements.

After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This could include for example, the application of any ointment or sun cream, or use of inhalers or EpiPens.

If a member of staff is concerned or uncertain about the amount or type of medication being given to a student this should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Adults taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children should seek medical advice regarding their suitability to do so and providers should ensure that they only work directly with children if that advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children. Employers are also responsible for managing the performance of their employees and for ensuring they are suitable to work with children.

Risk assessment is likely to recommend that staff medication on the premises must be securely stored and out of reach of children at all times

This means that Kingsbrook should:

- ensure there are trained and named individuals to undertake first aid responsibilities, including paediatric first aid if relevant
- ensure training is regularly monitored and updated
- refer to local and national First Aid guidance and guidance on meeting the needs of children with medical conditions

- adhere to the school or setting's health and safety and supporting students with medical conditions policies
- make other staff aware of the task being undertaken
- have regard to students' individual healthcare plan
- always ensure that an appropriate health/risk assessment is undertaken prior to undertaking certain activities
- explain to the student what is happening
- always act and be seen to act in the student's best interest
- make a record of all medications administered
- not work with students whilst taking medication unless medical advice confirms that they are able to do so

### **Photography, videos and other images**

Many educational activities involve recording images. These may be undertaken for displays, publicity, to celebrate achievement and to provide records of evidence of the activity. Under no circumstances should staff use, or allow others to use, their personal equipment to take images of students at or on behalf of the school.

Kingsbrook has arrangements with regard to the taking and use of images, which is linked to our safeguarding and child protection policy. This covers the wide range of devices which can be used for taking/recording images e.g. cameras, mobile-phones, smart phones, tablets, web-cams etc. and arrangements for the use of these by both staff, parents and visitors.

Whilst images are regularly used for very positive purposes adults need to be aware of the potential for these to be taken and/or misused or manipulated for pornographic or 'grooming' purposes. Particular regard needs to be given when images are taken of young or vulnerable children who may be unable to question why or how the activities are taking place.

Students who have been previously abused in a manner that involved images may feel particularly threatened by the use of photography, filming etc. Staff should remain sensitive to any student who appears uncomfortable and should recognise the potential for misinterpretation.

Making and using images of students will require the age appropriate consent of the individual concerned and their parents/carers. Images should not be displayed on websites, in publications or in a public place without such consent. The definition of a public place includes areas where visitors to the setting have access.

For the protection of children, it is recommended that when using images for publicity purposes that the following guidance should be followed:

- if the image is used, avoid naming the child, (or, as a minimum, use first names rather than surnames)
- if the child is named, avoid using their image

- schools should establish whether the image will be retained for further use, where and for how long
- images should be securely stored and used only by those authorised to do so

This means that staff should:

- adhere to their Kingsbrook's policy
- only publish images of students where they and their parent/carer have given explicit written consent to do so
- only take images where the student is happy for them to do so
- only retain images when there is a clear and agreed purpose for doing so
- store images in an appropriate secure place in the school or setting
- ensure that a senior member of staff is aware that the photography/image equipment is being used and for what purpose
- be able to justify images of students in their possession
- avoid making images in one to one situations

This means that adults should not:

- take images of students for their personal use
- display or distribute images of students unless they are sure that they have parental consent to do so (and, where appropriate, consent from the child)
- take images of children using personal equipment
- take images of children in a state of undress or semi-undress
- take images of children which could be considered as indecent or sexual

### **Exposure to inappropriate images**

Staff should take extreme care to ensure that children and young people are not exposed, through any medium, to inappropriate or indecent images.

There are no circumstances that will justify adults: making, downloading, possessing or distributing indecent images or pseudo-images of children (child abuse images). Accessing these images, (whether using the schools or personal equipment, on or off the premises), or making, storing or disseminating such material is illegal.

If indecent images of children are discovered at the establishment or on the school equipment an immediate referral will be made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the police contacted if relevant. The images/equipment will be secured and there should be no attempt to view or delete the images as this could jeopardise necessary criminal action. If the images are of children known to the school, a referral should also be made to children's social care in line with local arrangements.

Under no circumstances should any adult use school equipment to access pornography. Personal equipment containing pornography or links to it should never be brought into or used in the workplace. This will raise serious concerns about the suitability of the adult to continue working with children and young people.

Staff should keep their passwords confidential and not allow unauthorised access to equipment. In the event of any indecent images of children or unsuitable material being discovered on a device the equipment should not be tampered with in any way. It should be secured and isolated from the network, and the DSL contacted without delay. Adults should not attempt to investigate the matter or evaluate the material themselves as this may lead to a contamination of evidence and a possibility they will be at risk of prosecution themselves.

This means that staff should:

- abide by the establishment's acceptable use and e-safety policies
- ensure that children cannot be exposed to indecent or inappropriate images
- ensure that any films or material shown to children are age appropriate

## **Curriculum**

Many areas of the curriculum can include or raise subject matter which is sexually explicit or of a political or 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 can be supported by developing ground rules with students to ensure sensitive topics can be discussed in a safe learning environment. This plan should highlight particular areas of risk and sensitivity and care should especially be taken in those areas of the curriculum where usual boundaries or rules are less rigorously applied e.g. drama

The curriculum can sometimes include or lead to unplanned discussion about subject matter of a sexually explicit, political or otherwise sensitive nature. Responding to children's questions requires careful judgement and staff should take guidance in these circumstances from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Care should be taken to comply with the school's policy on spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) which promotes fundamental British values and is rigorously reviewed to ensure it is lawful and consistently applied. It should be noted that parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided but not from the National Curriculum for Science.

This means that staff should:

- have clear written lesson plans
- take care when encouraging students to use self-expression, not to overstep personal and professional boundaries
- be able to justify all curriculum materials and relate these to clearly identifiable lessons plans.

This means that adults should not:

- enter into or encourage inappropriate discussions which may offend or harm others
- undermine fundamental British values
- express any prejudicial views

- attempt to influence or impose their personal values, attitudes or beliefs on students

## **Whistleblowing**

Whistleblowing is the mechanism by which staff can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion. Kingsbrook has a clear and accessible whistleblowing policy that meets the terms of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. Staff who use whistle blowing procedures will have their employment rights protected.

Staff should recognise their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Head of School and/or relevant external agencies and that to not do so may result in charges of serious neglect on their part where the welfare of children may be at risk.

This means that school should:

- have a whistleblowing policy in place which is known to all
- have, as part of their safeguarding and child protection policy, clear procedures for dealing with allegations against persons working in or on behalf of the school or setting

This means that staff should:

- report any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern
- report allegations against staff and volunteers to the Head of School or where they have concerns about the Head of School's response report these directly to the DSL or Operations Director

## **Sharing concerns and recording incidents**

All staff should be aware of our safeguarding procedures, including the procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers.

In the event of an allegation being made, by any person, or incident being witnessed, the relevant information should be immediately recorded and reported to the Head of School or Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate.

Members of staff should feel able to discuss with their line manager any difficulties or problems that may affect their relationship with or behaviour towards students, so that appropriate support can be provided and/or action can be taken.

In order to safeguard and protect students and colleagues, where staff have any concerns about someone who works with children they should immediately report this to the Head of School, proprietor or senior manager in line with the schools procedures.

This means that staff should:

- be familiar with Kingsbrook's arrangements for reporting and recording concerns and allegations

- know how to contact the LADO / DSL and Ofsted/regulatory body directly if required
- take responsibility for recording any incident, and passing on that information where they have concerns about any matter pertaining to the welfare of an individual in the school or setting

This means that school should:

- have an effective, confidential system for recording and managing concerns raised by any individual regarding adults' conduct and any allegations against staff and volunteers