

Withernsea High School

Official Policy



Safeguarding in Education



School Staff, Governor and Volunteer Code of Conduct Safe Schools, Safe Children, Safe Staff *

* Refers to all paid staff, volunteers, visitors and people on placements

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Date ratified:	Autumn 2025	
Governor Committee:	Full Governing Body Committee	
Approved by:	Mr M Ainley Chair of Governors	Signature: 
Review due:	Autumn 2026	

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Inspiring confident young people to thrive in a changing world

'Safer working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (October 15 Safer Recruitment Consortium) contains more detailed guidance and advice.

The aims of this guidance are to:

- Help all staff establish safe and supportive learning environments which safeguard children and secures the wellbeing and best outcomes for the students in their care.
- Reduce the risk of adults being unjustly accused of unprofessional, inappropriate, or abusive conduct.
- Help staff to work safely to protect pupils and themselves.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of what is regarded as appropriate or inappropriate conduct and practice.
- Support the School managers in setting clear expectations for all staff.

References

- Safer working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education settings (February 2022 Safer Recruitment Consortium)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September 2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM (Govt July 2018)
- Teachers' Standards (DfE) 2013
- Dealing with Allegations against Teachers and Other Staff (DfE) 2016
- Use of Reasonable Force (DfE) 2013
- Screening, Searching and Confiscation (DfE September 2018)
- Facebook – Checklist Safer Internet Centre 2016 www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The Prevent Duty - advice for schools and childcare providers DfE 2015
- Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales April 2019 Govt
- Female Genital Mutilation: Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines HM Govt – July 2020
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused HM Govt 2015
- Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children HM Govt (2018)

Related School Policies include:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Behaviour and Physical Intervention
- Whistle Blowing and Managing Allegations
- Health and Safety

- Covid 19 School Risk Assessments, Risk Management and Health and Safety arrangements

Seek Advice and Support

This guidance is not exhaustive and cannot provide specific advice for all situations. Therefore:

- If no specific advice, policies, or guidelines exist for a specific situation, or if you are unsure consult your manager.
- If you need to take a particular course of action in an unplanned circumstance, which may vary from policies or does not allow time for advice to be sought, record these actions with a senior manager.
- If at any time you are concerned that an action or comment by yourself may be misinterpreted or that a child behaves or makes a comment in a way that causes you concern in this respect, log your concerns immediately with the appropriate senior member of staff.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff have the following responsibilities in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2025 to ensure the safeguarding of children:

- Work and behave safely and responsibly at all times to fulfil your duty of care and not abuse in any way your position of trust.
- Respond to any concerns about a child's wellbeing that you may have or are brought to your attention in line with the school Child Protection policy and East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP) procedures.
- Respond in the same way to concerns that involve the behaviour of other adults in the school by following the school procedures for 'Whistle Blowing' as outlined in the school Child Protection policy and Statutory Guidance.
- Review your own practice and follow school policies and procedures and seek advice when unsure.
- Understand that it is professionally, morally and in some cases legally unacceptable for staff not to carry out these responsibilities and failure to do so could result in disciplinary action.
- Be aware of current Teachers' Standards Part Two (DfE) 2013 (attached to end of this document).
- Comply at all times with the policy for relationships and sex education.

- Be aware of and comply with the school's Risk Management and Health & Safety arrangements to ensure they are as effective as possible in protecting staff and pupils.
- To act as role models in following these arrangements and procedures.

School Responsibilities

In order for staff to carry out these responsibilities the school will ensure that as outlined in KCSiE2025:

- All new and existing staff receive an adequate Safeguarding related induction and continuing training.
- All staff are made aware and regularly reminded of the school procedures for reporting child protection and other specific and wider safeguarding concerns.
- Staff concerns and opinions will be sought and taken into account in the regular review of related policies and procedures.
- All staff are aware of the School and LA 'Whistle Blowing' procedures by which adults can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion.
- Managers strive to provide a safe working environment for staff and provide guidance about safe working practices.
- The Duty of Care to staff is fulfilled.
- That all staff are aware of and able to fulfil the school's, Risk Management and Health & Safety arrangements to ensure they are as effective as possible in protecting staff and pupils.

Sharing Concerns and Recording Incidents

Do

- Ensure that you are aware of and have read Part 1 of KCSiE 2025 and annex A.
- Be alert to the indicators of abuse, neglect, exploitation, radicalisation, and risk-taking behaviour.
- Be familiar with and follow the school system for recording child protection and other concerns about children and young people.
- Be aware that you have a responsibility to pass on concerns that a pupil may be suffering including- Neglect, Sexual, Physical or Emotional harm and indicators of possible Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Radicalisation and Forced Marriage.
- Be aware that if you are a teacher, you have a legal responsibility to report to the police, via the ER Early Help & Safeguarding Hub evidence or disclosure that FGM may have been performed (See school Child Protection policy).
- Be aware that abuse suffered by pupils with SEN, disabilities or who present challenging behaviour may be more difficult to identify than in the case of other pupils as their additional needs may prevent disclosure or mask indicators of abuse.
- Be alert to the possibility of child-on-child abuse and harassment and do not dismiss behaviour such as sexual touching or verbal abuse or discrimination as 'part of growing up' or 'banter'.
- Take responsibility for recording any disclosure by or about a pupil or concerns that you have, and passing on information, using the school procedures as soon as possible but immediately in urgent or potentially serious cases and in all cases on the same day.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Report appropriately and confidentially any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern in line with the school Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and safeguarding Whistle Blowing procedures.
- Be aware that if you feel that a safeguarding or Child Protection matter has not been dealt with effectively you should raise the matter with the appropriate senior member of staff to seek review or reconsideration and that:
 - If you feel after this, that the concern persists you should contact the ER Safeguarding Hub or in cases of concerns about the behaviour of a member of staff, the Local Authority Designated Officer.

Do not

- Take images of a child's injury, bruising or similar (eg following a disclosure of abuse), even if requested by children's social care.
- Make audio recordings of a child's disclosure.

Confidentiality***Do***

- Treat information you receive about children and young people in a discreet and confidential manner and only share such information in line with the school policy and national Information Sharing guidance.
- Be aware that the discussion of internal school matters, including via the internet / social networking sites, can be regarded as breaches of confidentiality or data protection and could risk bringing the school into disrepute, generate parental complaints or action under Data Protection legislation.

Power and Positions of Trust

Do not use your position

- To intimidate, bully, humiliate, threaten, coerce, or undermine children or young people.
- To form or promote relationships which are of a sexual nature, or otherwise inappropriate or which may become so.
- To promote your own religious, political or philosophical beliefs.

Propriety and Behaviour

Do

- Be aware that certain circumstances in your private and personal life may impact upon your job and may result in consideration of your suitability to work with children and young people.
- Be aware that this will include information that you may place on social networking sites (or is placed about you by others) or otherwise publish.
- Follow professional codes of conduct at all times.

Do not

- Behave in a manner, which would lead any reasonable person to question your suitability to work with children or act as a role model.

Dress and Appearance

Do not

- Wear clothes, jewellery etc at school or in offsite school activities that are likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing, sexually provocative or distract or cause embarrassment.
- Wear clothes, jewellery, shoes etc that could present a Health and Safety risk to yourself or others.

Gifts, Rewards and Favouritism

Do

- Be aware of the school's policy on the giving and receiving of gifts.
- Ensure that gifts received or given in situations which may be misconstrued are declared or appropriately declined.
- Only give gifts to an individual child or young person as part of an agreed and open reward system.

Infatuations

Do

- Report and record any incidents or indications that suggest a child or young person may have developed an infatuation with you or another adult.
- Always maintain appropriate professional boundaries consistently with all pupils regardless of their age.

Do not

- Discuss or disclose personal details about your relationships or family life.

Communication with Children and Young People (Including the Use of Information Technology)

Do

- Report to a senior manager any internet or other communication by a pupil to you outside of the normal school systems or content as soon as possible.
- Ensure that you understand and follow the school 'Acceptable Internet Use and e safety policies.
- Ensure that you understand and apply the maximum-security setting for any internet based social networking sites or systems.
- Be aware of your 'Professional Online Reputation' if you use Social Networking Sites or systems.
- Only use equipment e.g. mobile phones, email provided by school to communicate with pupils, making sure that parents have given consent for this form of communication to be used in line with school policy.
- Only contact pupils for professional reasons and in accordance with the above and school related policies.
- Confine any such communication to school related content or discussion.

Do not

- Accept request from pupils (regardless of age) to establish Social Networking links outside of the school procedures.
- Give personal contact details to pupils, including mobile telephone numbers, email addresses or website / social networking sites.
- Use emails, social networking sites, mobile phones, other internet systems or written communication of any kind to send personal messages to a pupil.

Social Contact

Do

- Make senior colleagues aware of any ongoing community activities or social contact with pupils' families.
- Log any concerns you may have about contact with pupils or their families in the community or in your private life.
- Consider the appropriateness of social contact according to your role.
- Advise senior management of any unplanned social contact you have with a child.
- Be aware that you should ensure that your behaviour in social situations where you may be in the company of pupils, or their families must not compromise your position or reputation as a member of staff.

- Discuss with managers any relationship /association (in or out of school or online) that may have implications for the safeguarding of children in school.
- Inform senior management of any relationship with a parent where this extends beyond the usual parent/professional relationship

Do not

- Have social contact with pupils unless this is part of a family or established parental social, sporting, or other or community arrangements.

Sexual Contact

Do

- Ensure that your relationships with children and young people clearly take place within the boundaries of a respectful professional relationship.
- Be aware that sexual relationship or activity with a pupil under 18 is a criminal offence, regardless of consent.
- Be aware that a sexual or otherwise inappropriate relationship with any pupil over 18 will be regarded as a disciplinary offence.

Do not

- Have sexual contact with any pupil or otherwise abuse your position of trust.
- Have any form of communication with a pupil which could be interpreted as sexually suggestive or provocative i.e., verbal comments, letters, notes, electronic mail, phone calls, texts, physical contact.
- Make sexualised remarks to, or about, a child/young person.
- Discuss your own sexual relationships with or in the presence of children or young people.

Physical Contact

Do

- Be aware there are some occasions when it is entirely appropriate for staff to have a level of physical contact with a child. However, be aware that it is crucial in all circumstances that staff only intentionally touch children in

ways which are appropriate to their professional or agreed role and responsibilities or a specific circumstance or activity.

- Be aware that even well-intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by the child, an observer or by anyone to whom this action is described and should be avoided if not appropriate as above.
- Always be prepared to report and explain actions and accept that all physical contact will be open to scrutiny.
- Be aware that you need to take particular care in crowded or restricted areas such as corridors, changing rooms and some teaching areas in particular activities to avoid physical contact with pupils.

Do Not

- Indulge in 'horseplay' or other physical contact intended as a joke or in an attempt to diffuse challenging situations.
- Touch a pupil in a way which may be considered indecent, inappropriate or aggressive.

Activities that require Physical Contact

Do

- Explain to a child always the reason why contact is necessary and what form that contact will take.
- Follow recommended professional subject guidance and school protocols.
- Conduct such activities where they can be seen by others and as part of planned activities.

Behaviour Management and Physical Intervention

Do

- Adhere to the school's behaviour management and physical intervention policy and use physical intervention as a last or emergency resort in order to prevent harm to the pupil or others.
- Attempt to diffuse challenging situations wherever possible before resorting to physical intervention.
- Seek the support of colleagues before intervening wherever possible.
- Record and report as soon as possible after the event any incident where physical intervention has been used.
- Be aware that there is no exact definition of 'Reasonable Force' and allegations of assault can be made against staff.

- Recognise the risks presented by use of reasonable force during incidents involving children with SEN or disabilities/medical conditions.
- Consider the use of physical intervention in relation to reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination, and equality.

Do Not

- Act outside the school behaviour policy and procedures.
- Act in temper.
- Use physical intervention as a punishment.
- Use more force than required for longer than required.
- Compromise safety and dignity of any adults or pupils involved.
- Touch in a way that could be seen or portrayed as inappropriate.
- Use sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments or degrading treatment.

Children and Young People in Distress

Do

- Consider the way in which you offer comfort and reassurance to a distressed child in an age-appropriate and situation appropriate manner.
- Record and report situations which may give rise to concern from either party.

Respect and Privacy

Do

- Avoid any physical contact when pupils are in a state of undress.
- Avoid any visually intrusive behaviour.
- Follow the school supervision procedures in ensuring privacy and safety in changing areas.
- Change for PE or other activities in staff designated places.

First Aid and Intimate Care

Do

- Adhere to the school's policy for administering first aid, medication or intimate care.
- Make other adults aware of such a task being undertaken.
- Explain to the child what is happening.
- Report and record any administration of first aid or medication.
- Have regard to any individual health plan which is in place.

Do not

- Administer first aid or intimate care unless you are specifically identified and trained to do so.

One to One Situations

Do

- Do not meet or interact with pupils 1:1 in remote or secluded parts of the school.
- Inform other adults about meetings beforehand, assessing the need to have them present or close by.
- Ensure there is an open door or visual access.
- Consider the needs and circumstances of the child/children involved.
- Use your professional judgement in such meetings and report any situation where a child does or says anything that gives cause for concern.

Do not

- Arrange meetings with children or young people off the school site unless in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of a senior manager and parents.
- Use 'engaged' or equivalent signs on internal doors when meeting with pupils.
- Create blind or potentially vulnerable places within your teaching areas, e.g. covering internal or external windows.

Home Visits

Do

- Agree the purpose for any home visit with senior management.
- Adhere to agreed risk management strategies.
- Always make detailed records including times of arrival and departure and work undertaken.
- Ensure any behaviour or situation of concern is reported.

Do Not

- Enter a home if only the child or children are present unless as an emergency safety measure and in such a case alert school or the appropriate agency immediately.

Transporting Children and Young People

Do

- Ensure that you do not transport children in any situation other than as part of school arranged activity unless in an emergency situation in the interests of the pupil's welfare.
- Ensure that any impromptu or emergency arrangements of lifts are logged and can be justified
- be aware that the safety and welfare of the child is your responsibility until they are safely passed over to a parent/carer or colleague.
- Ensure parental consent is obtained and record details of the journey in accordance with agreed procedures.
- Ensure that all arrangements take into account, vehicle, passenger and driver safety including having proper and appropriate insurance for the type of vehicle being driven, including business insurance which covers transporting pupils.
- Avoid situations where allegations against you or misunderstandings can arise.

Trips, Educational visits, and Extra-Curricular Activities e.g., sports or music and Drama events etc

Do

- Arrange for another adult to be present in out of school activities, unless otherwise agreed with a senior manager.
- Undertake risk assessments in line with the school and LA policy where applicable.
- Ensure that these risk assessments take account of vulnerable or challenging pupils taking part in the event.
- Ensure that parents are aware of the visit / activity.
- Have appropriate parental consent to the activity.
- Ensure that your behaviour remains professional and consistent with school practice at all times.
- Maintain professionalism and do not allow pupils to use your first name.
- Ensure that any adult volunteers are appropriately vetted, supervised and briefed.

Photography and Video

Do

- Be clear about the purpose of the activity and about what will happen to the images when the activity is concluded.
- Be able to justify images of children in your possession.
- Ensure the child/young person understands why the images are being taken.
- Report any concerns about any inappropriate or intrusive photographs found.
- Ensure that you are aware of any pupils whose parents/ carers have refused consent for photographs to be taken or published.
- Be aware of and follow the school policy for the storage and use of personal mobile and smart phones in school.

Do not

- Use equipment not provided or authorised by the school to take, store or send images of children.
- Take or display photographs without parental consent.
- Place images on social networking sites other than the school official site.

Access to Inappropriate Images and Internet Usage

Do

- Ensure that school equipment is not used to view or download adult pornography or other inappropriate material.
- Ensure that pupils are not exposed to or have access to inappropriate material such as pornography, extremist material, gambling sites etc.
- Ensure that school IT and internet policies are followed at all times.

Do not

- Use personal IT or other photographic equipment in school without arrangement with senior staff.

Remember

- If no specific advice, policies, or guidelines for a specific situation exist, or if you are unsure consult a senior manager.
- If you need to take a particular course of action in an unplanned circumstance, which may vary from policies or which does not allow time for advice to be sought, record these actions with a senior manager.
- If at any time you are concerned that an action or comment by yourself may be misinterpreted, or that a child behaves or makes a comment in a way that causes you concern, log this immediately with the appropriate senior member of staff.

Appendix 1 - Teachers' Standards December 2021

Part Two: Personal and professional conduct

A teacher is expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. The following statements define the behaviour and attitudes which set the required standard for conduct throughout a teacher's career.

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:

- Treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position.
- Having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- Showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others
- Not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.

Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies, and practices of the school in which they teach and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.

Teachers must understand, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.