

Stepney Primary School



A Small School With Great Expectations

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement

At Stepney raising the achievement and basic skills of pupils and ensuring that they reach their full potential is the responsibility of all staff.

1. BACKGROUND

The Committee on Standards in Public Life established in 1994 under the chairmanship of Lord Nolan produced a study which looked at aspects of conduct in local government. The study called for a radical change and greater clarity in the ethical framework within which local government operates in order to combat fraud and corruption.

2. The Audit Commission has reported on financial probity in local government e.g. 'Protecting the Public Purse' and 'Fraud and Lodging', and provided advice to local authorities e.g. the Fraud and Corruption Manual on combating fraud.
3. This Policy Statement and Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy set out the City Council and school's commitment to fighting fraud and corruption in all aspects of the Council and school activities. It serves to emphasize the importance given to the maintenance of the highest standards of probity and conduct in all the affairs of the highest standards of probity and conduct in all the affairs of the Council and is binding on all Members, employees and agency workers who all play a part in protecting public money and assets. It should also be a key element in setting out the provisions of partnership arrangements.
4. The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This review considers amendments to officers' responsibilities and the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

The school and Council is committed to the highest possible ethical standards and will ensure probity in local administration and governance by taking positive action against all forms of fraud and corruption which is set out in an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

6. All Members and employees including agency and contracted staff and outsourced services are expected to observe the highest standards of public life and observe the principles established by the Government which are based on the Nolan Committee's recommendations:
 - Selflessness;
 - Honesty and Integrity;
 - Objectivity;
 - Accountability;
 - Openness;
 - Stewardship;
 - Leadership.

7. The school and Council expects all its Members and employees to:
- Observe the Member and Officer Codes of Conduct;
 - Act with total integrity at all times and be honest and trustworthy and to comply with all legislation, regulations, codes, instructions, policies and procedures;
 - Insist on proper conduct from customers, contractors, suppliers, partners and all other third parties;
 - Report fraud and corruption and other irregularities where it is suspected or it is being perpetrated against the Council, immaterial of seniority, rank or status. This should not be just confined to the area in which a Member or an employee works;
 - The public also has a role to play in this process and should inform and be encouraged to inform the Council if they feel that fraud or corruption may have occurred;
8. The School or Council will not tolerate:
- Fraud, corruption and other irregularities perpetrated by its Members or employees against the Council or others;
 - Fraud, corruption, and other irregularities perpetrated by customers, suppliers, partners, claimants or other third parties against the school or Council.
9. The School and Council will continuously review its strategies and system to:
- Ensure the most appropriate user friendly reporting system is available to allow the public/external agencies/contractors to make a complaint of fraud or corruption;
 - Maximise the potential number of referrals from the public/external agencies/contractors via a robust external advertising campaign.
10. Where fraud or other irregularity is found or suspected by the school or Council, the Council will:
- Seek to prosecute in cases of fraud or corruption:
 - Refer to the Police all instances where a crime is suspected and give them the opportunity to either investigate the matter separately themselves or conduct a joint investigation with the school or Council;
 - Investigate appropriately, in every instance with or without police involvement, with all enquiries carried out with the utmost propriety;
 - Work within guidelines based on best practice and relevant legislation;
 - Institute disciplinary action where appropriate;
 - Take other appropriate action and amend school or Council policies and procedures accordingly;
 - Seek reimbursement, compensation and costs as appropriate when public funds have been defrauded or misappropriated

Updated Summer 2014
Mr P Browning
To be reviewed Summer 2017