

BCU ITE Trainee Teacher Code of Conduct

The BCU ITE Code of Conduct is based upon Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards (DfE 2012) and expectations for behaviour that will support all trainee teachers in understanding and developing their professional responsibilities leading to the achievement of QTS and beyond. If a trainee's university tutor, link tutor, or school mentor feels that a trainee is not demonstrating the expected professional behaviours as outlined in the code of conduct below, the trainee will be put onto the Cause for Concern process. All trainees must sign this document before school placements can begin.

Code of Conduct Section 1

Section 1 outlines Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards which relates to personal and professional conduct. This information will be available in your course handbook as well as school documentation that supports your placement but it is made available here to reinforce the fact that Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards must be demonstrated in order for you to achieve Qualified Teacher Status.

Part 2: 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 have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities"

(DfE, 2012, page 14:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/665520/Teachers_Standards.pdf)

Code of Conduct Section 2

In addition to Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards (2012) there are other expectations in regards to your professional conduct when working on placement with pupils, parents and mentors and at University when working with tutors and lecturers. These expectations are outlined below to support you in developing as a professional across all aspects of your teacher training course.

As a trainee teacher you must:

- **be a good role model;**
- **make pupils your key concern;**
- **promote the education of pupils;**
- **be open and honest, and act with integrity;**
- **show respect for others.**

Expectations in regards to how you can demonstrate this are given below:

Expectations for when trainee teachers are working with pupils – being a good role model and making pupils your key concern

You have come into the teaching profession to work with children and young people and their education, care and safety will be your responsibility. There are a number of ways that you can ensure you fulfil this responsibility:

- you must treat all pupils without discrimination and with respect and fairness;
- as a trainee teacher you will hear personal and sometimes sensitive information about the pupils with whom you work. All information obtained in the educational establishment must be treated as confidential, and only shared as may be required by law, or under the policies or procedures of the educational establishment concerned;
- you are a role model for pupils in all you do and say; honesty and fairness are highly important, not least in relation to the information you give about them;
- concerning the procedures that are in place in all educational establishments to protect children and protected adults, it is your responsibility to know what these are and to ensure that you follow them at all times;

Expectations for when the trainee teacher is working with others (Educational establishments, parents and carers) – promoting the education of pupils within the educational community

- As a trainee teacher you are required to work co-operatively within the educational community and respect the skills, expertise and contribution from all people involved in the education of pupils;
- You should treat everyone with whom you work and learn, fairly, respectfully and without discrimination;
- You should not make any comment about teachers and other professionals or staff within the educational community or by electronic means, which may undermine them professionally;
- You should be professional in your relationships with parents and carers, respecting and valuing their role in the learning experience;
- In all dealings with parents and carers you must not become involved in inappropriate discussions or divulge sensitive or confidential information about other pupils, staff or the educational establishment concerned.
- You should be professional in your relationships with mentors and school staff, respecting and valuing their role and expertise.

Expectations for the trainee teacher in demonstrating honesty and integrity – being open and honest and acting with integrity.

As a trainee embarking upon a programme in Professional Education, you should be aware that your initial teacher education (ITE) programme will involve a blend of academic study and practice based in educational establishments which aims to provide you with a set of skills, dispositions and behaviours that will become the basis upon which your professional practice is built. It is important that you begin to understand and reflect on this professionalism as soon as you commence your ITE studies, and the fact that, as a trainee teacher, and in your teaching career, pupils will look to you as a role model:

- you must not engage in criminal behaviour of any kind, especially related to sex, dishonesty, firearms, misuse of drugs and violence against a person or property, serious public order or crimes of serious dishonesty;
- you should inform the University if you have been cautioned or have committed a criminal act that might affect your suitability to enter the profession;
- you should be aware of and adhere to the relevant Code of Conduct of your University;
- you should have regard to your honesty and integrity in your academic studies;
- you must not by any means or in any circumstances make, view or access illegal or inappropriate images of children or protected adults;
- you should be mindful that your professional reputation, together with your suitability and fitness to teach, is not judged exclusively upon your behaviours while out on teaching placement, but also on your general good character;
- you should be aware of your personal conduct and ensure that your behaviour does not bring your professionalism into question. This would include, for example, drug and alcohol abuse, or inappropriate contact or relationships with young people of school age;
- you should take great care and use common sense and appropriateness in your use of social networking, always mindful of the reality and perception in regard to your position and reputation as a trainee teacher and the appropriate professional boundaries between yourself and pupils. Social networking sites should not be used to make comments about pupils, parents/ carers, colleagues or educational establishments.

Expectations for the trainee teacher in demonstrating equality and diversity – respecting others

BCU promotes equality and diversity and respects and values difference. BCU wants to promote an inclusive profession that incorporates people from a range of diverse backgrounds. Through respecting the principle of equal treatment, this will benefit both the teaching profession and pupils alike and therefore as a trainee teacher:

- you must treat all pupils without discrimination and with respect and fairness;
- you should engage and work positively with pupils, colleagues, parents and carers in an open, inclusive and respectful way, in line with the law and with a non-judgemental approach whatever their background, personal circumstances, cultural differences, values and beliefs;
- you should help pupils to understand different views, perspectives, and experiences and develop positive relationships both within the educational establishment and within the local community;
- you should recognise the potentially serious impact which any demonstration by you of intolerance or prejudice could have upon your standing as a student teacher and any application for registration in the future.

Trainee name:	
Trainee signature:	
Subject route:	
Date:	