



ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

**The Principal, March 2010
Formal Review Date: March 2011**



ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY – STATEMENT ACADEMIES

Red House Academy has adopted this policy from Sunderland City Council

This policy is applicable to all employees of Red House Academy.

The specific arrangements which the Council expects to be in place to effectively deliver the Policy's aims are outlined in the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption – Operational Arrangements document. The framework document effectively outlines what Council Directorates, and the Academy need to do to meet the Policy's aims.

The Academy has an important part to play as part of the implementation of the Policy. The adoption of a revised Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy by each Academy and the maintenance of effective arrangements within Academies in this area will help to ensure the Academy maintains high standards and an anti fraud culture, ensures that the Academy's policy reflects current good practice and remains fit for purpose, and provides a clear message as to its attitude toward fraud, corruption and other impropriety which is consistent with that of the rest of the Council.

**The contact officer for this report is
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Background

The United Kingdom public sector maintains high standards of probity and has a good reputation for protecting the public purse. Red House Academy and the Governing Body share these high standards and reputation and is committed to protecting the public funds entrusted to it so that the maximum amount of resources can be used for their intended purpose.

The Council currently spends approximately £700 million on the services it provides including Academy's. As part of the Academy's and Governing Body's commitment to protecting public funds, and to make the most efficient and effective use of the resources it is responsible for, it is essential that the risk to the Council and the Academy of financial losses due to fraud, corruption and financial impropriety are minimised.

Commitment

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the citizens of Sunderland have complete confidence that the affairs of the Academy are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of probity and accountability. As part of this commitment the Governing Body is committed to combating fraud, corruption and other financial impropriety (e.g. theft) wherever it may arise in relation to any of the Academy's activities or services and, in achieving this aim, realises this involves any Governor or Academy appointed worker, officer of the Council or member of the public or any other third party associated with the Academy's activities.

Standards

The Governing Body expects Governors and its Academy appointed workers to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, probity, openness and integrity in the discharge of their functions. This includes:

- a) compliance with appropriate legislation, Codes of Conduct, Delegation Scheme, Conditions of Service, standards of appropriate professional bodies, and any other standards, guidelines or instructions which are relevant to the particular service or activity,
- b) providing a framework within which counter fraud arrangements will flourish, and
- c) promoting an anti fraud and corruption culture within the Academy

Likewise the Academy and the Governing Body expect that all external individuals and organisations that it deals with, e.g. suppliers, contractors, partners, service providers, parents and members of the public etc., will act with honesty and integrity and without thought or actions involving fraud, corruption or financial impropriety. In such relationships the principles outlined in this Policy must be applied. Where external third parties become aware of any fraud and corruption they should report their concerns promptly to the Academy or the Council.

Implementation

The Governing Body is committed to establishing and maintaining effective arrangements to prevent fraud, corruption and financial impropriety. The Governing Body recognises, however, that these cannot always be prevented and so effective arrangements have been established to detect, report and investigate all incidents or situations where they are suspected.

The Governing Body is committed to creating and maintaining an anti fraud and corruption culture which promotes the highest standards of conduct and which enables Governors, Academy appointed workers and other external parties to express concerns and suspicions without fear of

repercussion or intimidation and in the knowledge that the information will be treated confidentially and will be investigated fully and rigorously. This includes established reporting arrangements through the Academy's Whistle-blowing Policy.

The Governing Body will not tolerate dishonesty on the part of any Governor, Academy appointed worker or any person or organisation involved in any way with the Academy. Where fraud or corruption is detected the Academy and City Council will rigorously pursue appropriate action against the persons concerned including legal and/or disciplinary action, and wherever possible and deemed appropriate, will take action to recover any losses suffered.

The Governing Body and the Academy are committed to working constructively with the police and other relevant agencies in relation to combating fraud, corruption and financial impropriety within the Academy or within the wider public sector.

Awareness

The Governing Body and the Academy will seek to ensure that its stance on anti fraud and corruption is widely publicised both internally and externally to the Academy. All Governors, employees and other associated bodies/persons with whom the Academy conducts its business will be appropriately briefed as to this Policy.

Further Guidance

It is intended that an Anti Fraud and Corruption – Operational Arrangements document for Academies will be made available to aid Academies in the implementation of the policy.

Further information and guidance is available from the City Council's Internal Audit Service, City Treasurer's Department, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN (tel: 0191 553 2823)

Action required

Governors are asked to approve and adopt the "Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement – Academies" outlined above and to liaise with Headteachers to ensure effective arrangements to implement and promote the policy are in place.

Further advice and information can be obtained from Angus Graham, Audit Manager within the Council's Internal Audit Service.