



## WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

### Introduction

The staff and governors of Meadow Farm School seek to run all aspects of school business and activity with full regard for high standards of conduct and integrity. In the event that members of school staff, parents, governors or the school community at large become aware of activities which give cause for concern, Meadow Farm Primary School has established the following **whistleblowing policy**, or code of practice, which acts as a framework to allow concerns to be raised confidentially and provides for a thorough and appropriate investigation of the matter to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion.

Throughout this policy, the term whistleblower denotes the person raising the concern or making the complaint. It is not meant in a pejorative sense and is entirely consistent with the terminology used by Lord Nolan as recommended in the *Second Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life: Local Spending Bodies* published in May 1996. This policy also intends to reflect the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) document which outlines the need for clear whistleblowing procedures, a freedom to 'speak up' and a culture that enables issues of safeguarding and welfare to be addressed.

### Aims and Objectives

Meadow Farm Community Primary School is committed to tackling fraud and other forms of malpractice and treats these issues seriously. We recognise that some concerns may be extremely sensitive and has therefore developed a system which allows for the confidential raising of concerns within the school environment but also has recourse to an external party outside the management structure of the school.

Meadow Farm Community Primary School is committed to creating a climate of trust and openness so that a person who has a genuine concern or suspicion can raise the matter with full confidence that the matter will be appropriately considered and resolved. The provisions of this policy apply to matters such as impropriety and suspected fraud rather than matters of more general grievance which would be dealt with under Meadow Farm School's grievance procedure.

## **Implementation of the policy**

### **When might the whistleblowing policy apply?**

The type of activity or behaviour which Meadow Farm Community Primary School considers should be dealt with under this **policy** includes:

manipulation of accounting records and finances  
inappropriate use of school assets or funds  
decision-making for personal gain  
any criminal activity  
abuse of position  
fraud and deceit  
serious breaches of school procedures which may advantage a particular party (for example tampering with tender documentation, failure to register a personal interest).

### **What action should the whistleblower take?**

Meadow Farm Community Primary School encourages the whistleblower to raise the matter internally in the first instance to allow those school staff and governors in positions of responsibility and authority the opportunity to right the wrong and give an explanation for the behaviour or activity.

We have designated a number of individuals to specifically deal with such matters and the whistleblower is invited to decide which of those individuals would be the most appropriate person to deal with the matter.

### **Contact details:**

Samantha Eyre  
Headteacher  
c/o Meadow Farm School

Chair of Governors:  
David Allan  
c/o Meadow Farm School

The whistleblower may prefer to raise the matter in person, by telephone or in written form marked 'private and confidential' and addressed to one of the above named individuals via the school office. All matters will be treated in strict confidence and anonymity will be respected wherever possible.

Any issue of Safeguarding will be dealt with in line with Meadow Farm's Safeguarding policy.

Alternatively, if the whistleblower considers the matter too serious or sensitive to raise within the internal environment of the school, the matter should be directed in the first instance to the Council's Director of Corporate Governance, property, and procurement and monitoring officer :  
([Emilyfeenan@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Emilyfeenan@derby.gov.uk) - 01332 643611).

The Council has its own procedures for dealing with such matters and will ensure every effort to respect the confidentiality of the whistleblower. The Council will ensure relevant officers of the Department of Education are informed as appropriate. In addition, information and advice can be obtained from the charity Public Concern at Work. This charity offers free legal advice in certain circumstances to people concerned about serious malpractice at work. Their literature states that matters are handled in strict confidence and without obligation.

**Contact details for the charity are as follows:**

Public Concern at Work Suite 306  
16 Baldwins Gardens  
London  
EC1N 7RJ  
Telephone number 020 7404 6609

**How will the matter be progressed?**

The individual(s) in receipt of the information or allegation [the investigating officer(s)] will carry out a preliminary investigation. This will seek to establish the facts of the matter and assess whether the concern has foundation and can be resolved internally. The initial assessment may identify the need to involve third parties to provide further information, advice or assistance, for example involvement of other members of school staff, legal or personnel advisors, the police, the Department of Education, the Council.

Records will be kept of work undertaken and actions taken throughout the investigation. The investigating officer(s), possibly in conjunction with the governing body, will consider how best to report the findings and what corrective action needs to be taken. This may include some form of disciplinary action or third party referral such as the police.

The whistleblower will be informed of the results of the investigation and the action taken to address the matter. Depending on the nature of the concern or allegation and whether or not it has been substantiated, the matter will be reported to the governing body and the Council.

If the whistleblower is dissatisfied with the conduct of the investigation or resolution of the matter or has genuine concerns that the matter has not been handled appropriately, the concerns should be raised with the investigating officer(s), the governing body and/or directed to the Council.

**Respecting confidentiality**

Wherever possible Meadow Farm Community Primary School seeks to respect the confidentiality and anonymity of the whistleblower and will as far as possible protect him/her from reprisals.

Meadow Farm Community Primary School will not tolerate any attempt to victimise the whistleblower or attempts to prevent concerns being raised and will consider any necessary disciplinary or corrective action appropriate to the circumstances.

### **Raising unfounded malicious concerns**

Individuals are encouraged to come forward in good faith with genuine concerns with the knowledge they will be taken seriously. If individuals raise malicious unfounded concerns or attempt to make mischief, this will also be taken seriously and may constitute a disciplinary offence or require some other form of penalty appropriate to the circumstances.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Existing good practice within Meadow Farm School in terms of its systems of internal control both financial and non-financial and the external regulatory environment in which the school operates ensure that cases of suspected fraud or impropriety rarely occur.

This **whistleblowing policy** is provided as a reference document to establish a framework within which issues can be raised confidentially internally and if necessary outside the management structure of the school.

This document is a public commitment that concerns are taken seriously and will be actioned.

Amendments **will** be made to this policy as and when required by the governing body but a full review of the policy content **will** occur every 3 years as a minimum.

Policy prepared by: Samantha Eyre, HT

Date prepared: November 2025

Date ratified by the Resources Committee:



Signed:

(Chair of the Governors )  
David Allan



Signed:

(Headteacher)  
Samantha Eyre

Review Date: November 2028