

Staff Handbook Template

## [www.staffsquared.com](http://www.staffsquared.com)

Last updated: September 2014

[Your company Logo]

[Your organisation Name]

STAFF HANDBOOK

Printed on: [insert date]

Issued [insert date]

# Welcome to *[organisation* *name]*

*[Use this section to include a message of welcome to new starters, perhaps from the Director.*

*You could refer to:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *the organisation’s culture, vision and values* |
|  | *the organisation’s objectives* |
|  | *the value the organisation places on its staff* |

*Wish all new starters an enjoyable and rewarding career with the organisation.*

*If this is a personal message, you may wish to include a photograph or the signature of the Director.]*

# Use of the Staff Handbook

The Staff Handbook is designed to provide you with information about *[organisation name]* and details of your employment. The Staff Handbook also contains the policies, procedures and rules, which the organisation has adopted and you are expected to follow as a member of the *[organisation name]* team.

A number of the policies, procedures and rules included in the Staff Handbook are referred to in your contract of employment. Some form part of your contract of employment with *[organisation name]* and some do not. The Staff Handbook specifies which policies, procedures and rules are incorporated into your contract of employment. It is important to read the Staff Handbook carefully. If you have any questions about its contents, please raise them with *[Name/Job title]*

The Staff Handbook will be updated as and when changes occur.

For record purposes, please complete the tear off slip below and return it to *[Name, job title and address of person responsible for HR records]* to acknowledge receipt of your copy of the Staff Handbook.

………………………………………………………………………………………

To *[Person responsible for HR records]*

Name………………………………………………………………………………

I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of the *[organisation name]* Staff Handbook. I understand and accept that, where specified, the policies, procedures and rules contained in the Staff Handbook form part of my contract of employment with *[organisation name].*

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………….

# About *[organisation name]*

*[Use this section to provide information about the organisation, including:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | organisation’s history |
|  | products and services |
|  | objectives |

*Avoid details which are likely to become out of date in the short term, for example organisation charts, financial results, pay scales, staff numbers, future developments.]*

# Equal Opportunities Statement

*[Organisation name]* is committed to encouraging diversity and eliminating discrimination in both its role as an employer and as a provider of services. Our aim is that our staff [and volunteers] are truly representative of all sections of society and work in an environment where everyone is respected and able to perform to the best of their ability. Our policy is to provide equality and fairness for all in our employment and in our provision of services and not to discriminate on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion or age.

*[Organisation name]* opposes all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. It is our policy to provide a suitable environment for people with disabilities. All reasonable facilities will be provided for staff and volunteers with disabilities to perform their roles without difficulty or disadvantage.

The Company will not tolerate direct or indirect discrimination against any person on grounds of age, disability, gender / gender reassignment, marriage / civil partnership, pregnancy / maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation whether in the field of recruitment, terms and conditions of employment, career progression, training, transfer or dismissal.

It is also the responsibility of all staff in their daily actions, decisions and behaviour to endeavour to promote these concepts, to comply with all relevant legislation and to ensure that they do not discriminate against colleagues, customers, suppliers or any other person associated with the Company.

In adopting these principles *[Organisation name]*:

1. Will not tolerate acts that breach this policy and all such breaches or alleged breaches will be taken seriously, be fully investigated and may be subject to disciplinary action where appropriate.
2. Fully recognises its legal obligations under all relevant legislation and codes of practice.
3. Will allow staff to pursue any matter through the internal procedures which they believe has exposed them to inequitable treatment within the scope of this policy. If you need to access these procedures they can be obtained from your line manager e.g. Grievance Procedure, etc.
4. Will ensure that all managers understand and maintain their responsibilities and those of their team under this policy.
5. Will offer opportunities for flexible working patterns, wherever operationally feasible, to help employees to combine a career with their domestic responsibilities.
6. Will provide equal opportunity to all who apply for vacancies through open competition.
7. Will select candidates only on the basis of their ability to carry out the job, using a clear and open process.
8. Will provide all employees with the training and development that they need to carry out their job effectively.
9. Will provide all reasonable assistance to employees who are or who become disabled, making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to provide continued employment. We will ensure an appropriate risk assessment is carried out and that appropriate specialist advice is obtained when necessary.
10. Will distribute and publicise this policy statement throughout the Company

# Dignity at Work

The Company believes that the working environment should at all times be supportive of the dignity and respect of individuals. If a complaint of harassment is brought to the attention of management, it will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken.

# What and How of Harassment

Harassment can be defined as conduct, which is unwanted and offensive and affects the dignity of an individual or group of individuals.

Sexual harassment is defined as “unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex, affecting the dignity of women and men at work”. This can include unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | race, ethnic origin, nationality or skin colour |
|  | sex or sexual orientation |
|  | religious or political convictions |
|  | willingness to challenge harassment, leading to victimisation  |
| *
 | disabilities, sensory impairments or learning difficulties |
|  | status as ex-offenders |
|  | age |
|  | real or suspected infection with a blood borne virus (eg AIDS/HIV)  |
|  | membership of a trade union or activities associated with membership |

People can be subject to harassment on a wide variety of grounds including:

Forms may include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | physical contact ranging from touching to serious assault |
|  | verbal and written harassment through jokes, offensive language, gossip and slander, sectarian songs, letters and so on |
|  | visual display of posters, graffiti, obscene gestures, flags and emblems |
|  | isolation or non-cooperation at work, exclusion from social activities |
|  | coercion ranging from pressure for sexual favours to pressure to participate in political/religious groups |
|  | intrusion by pestering, spying, following someone |
|  | bullying |
|  | real or suspected infection with a blood borne virus (eg AIDS/HIV)  |
|  | membership of a trade union or activities associated with membership |

If you feel you are being harassed you are strongly encouraged to seek early advice/support from your line manager. If your feel your line manager is harassing you, then you should contact his/her immediate line manager.

You should also keep a written record detailing the incidents of harassment and any requests made to the harasser to stop. This written record should be made as soon as possible after the events giving rise to concern and should include dates, times, places and the circumstances of what happened.

*[Organisation name]* has a formal procedure for dealing with these issues which you can obtain from your line manager.

# Joining *[organisation name]*

## Probationary period

On joining *[organisation name]* you will serve a [3/6] month probationary period. During this time you will be thinking about whether you wish to remain working with us. Your line manager, at the same time, will be assessing your suitability for your role.

If you do not reach the standards required by *[organisation name]* your employment may be terminated at any time during the probationary period with one week’s notice. [*Organisation name]* reserves the right to extend the probationary period where required.

The ACAS Code on Discipline, Dismissal and Grievance Procedures do not apply during the probationary period.

As a new employee you will be added to our HR software Staff Squared. You will receive a welcome email and you will need to log in and complete your personal information. You will be sent a password but will be prompted when you sign in to change that password. Staff Squared is used to record and keep track of all of your holiday and sickness absences, manage your appraisals and store your personnel files. Here is a link to the Knowledge Base so that you can find the answers to any questions you may have about how to use the software [Knowledge Base](https://staffsquared.uservoice.com/knowledgebase).

## Induction

We are keen that you have every assistance to help you settle into your role quickly. Your induction programme sets out what to expect on your first day and the induction process we will follow. You will meet your colleagues and you will receive information on *[organisation name],* your

terms and conditions of employment, policies and procedures, health and safety.

If there is anything you need to know about *[organisation name]* or what is required of you in your role, please ask your line manager.

## Changes to personal details

To help us to assist you, especially in cases of emergency, it is essential that all information on your personnel records is complete, correct and up to date. Please log in to your Staff Squared account as soon as there are any changes to your personal details and make the appropriate amendments.

Your personal information is confidential and will not be released to outside sources without your prior authorisation.

## Criminal Records Checks

Certain employees of *[organisation name]* may be required to undergo a criminal records office check. This is only in very special circumstances where your employment with us means you are likely to come into contact with children or vulnerable adults (or certain other particular circumstances). Should this be the case, we will discuss the situation with you prior to confirming your appointment (or relevant change to your job).

# Pay

## Payment of salaries

Salaries are paid on the *(insert date)* of each calendar month by cheque/BACS transfer. An individual payslip showing gross pay, fixed and variable deductions and net pay will be given to you each month. Your starting salary is that stated in your contract of employment. We will let you know of any subsequent changes to your salary which is normally reviewed annually.

## Deductions from salaries

*[Organisation name]* will make any deductions from your pay as required by law or as authorised by you in writing. In addition *[organisation name]* reserves the right to make salary adjustments to your pay where an overpayment has been made or in cases of malicious damage which result in dismissal.

# Pensions

*Insert pension details*

## Hours of work

Your normal hours are those set out in your contract of employment. Full time employees in *[organisation name]* are contracted to work [X] hours per week.

If you are part time and also have a second job, you should be aware of the rules of the Working Time Regulations 1998.

*Insert information about rest breaks including whether they are paid or unpaid.*

# TOIL

Where employees are authorised to work on behalf of *[organisation name]* in addition to contractual hours, time off in lieu (TOIL) will be allowed. All work carried on outside of normal contractual hours must be authorised in advance. Where TOIL is accrued, compensating time off should be taken as soon as possible in order to avoid build up.

*TOIL accrued in the evening will be accrued at single time and TOIL accrued at weekends/ Public Holidays will be accrued at time and a half.*

# Holidays

## Holiday entitlement

*Insert holiday entitlement*

You are entitled to x days/weeks holiday per year for a full time working week. Part time employees will have their holiday entitlement proportionate to their normal hours of work as stated in the Contract of Employment. This will include a pro rata entitlement to Public Holidays. If you join *[organisation name]* part way through a holiday year you are entitled to the appropriate portion of leave based on the number of completed months of service.

## Optional

*The office will close for the period between Christmas and New Year since there is no requirement for our services at that time. You must keep up to 3 days leave for this purpose.*

You may take no more than two weeks holiday at any one time except in exceptional circumstances – see below. As far as possible, leave should be taken in blocks of whole working weeks.

There will be no unpaid leave unless in exceptional circumstances.

# Holiday Year

The holiday period runs between the [*1st April and the 31st March*].

Leave may not be carried over from one leave year to the next, unless specific permission is given. Leave not taken will be lost, unless specific permission is given.

## Public and bank holidays

*Insert information about entitlement.*

*Example insert*

*You are granted all public holidays with pay. If you are part time you will receive a pro-rata entitlement (one fifth of your working week per Public/Bank Holiday. Where time off on a Public Holiday exceeds entitlement, the time must be made up using Holiday entitlement, TOIL or by rearranging working hours that week. Public Holiday entitlement for part time employees will be included on the Annual Leave Form.*

*The days of public and bank holidays in England and Wales are:*

*New Year's Day*

*Good Friday*

*Easter Monday*

*May Day*

*Spring Bank Holiday*

*Late Summer Bank Holiday*

*Christmas Day*

*Boxing Day*

## Holiday booking

To request a holiday you will need to log in to your Staff Squared account and go to your calendar. Once you have chosen your dates and clicked on Request holiday your Admin/Manager will received a notification of your requested holiday and they will be able to approve/reject that holiday. You will be sent a notification when this has been done. Please give as much notice as possible when you are booking time off. Here is a link to the Knowledge Base article on how booking a holiday in Staff Squared works – [Booking a Holiday](https://staffsquared.uservoice.com/knowledgebase/articles/168813-how-does-booking-a-holiday-work).

In the event that a holiday request has to be refused, *[The line manager]* will give at least as much notice of refusal as the amount of leave requested.

Holidays are granted on a 'first come first served' basis so the more notice you give the more likely it will be that you will be able to take your holiday when you wish.

On termination of employment all outstanding annual leave must have been taken prior to the effective date of departure. At the discretion of the Director, payment may be made in lieu of holiday entitlement. Such payments shall meet the requirements of Regulation 14 of the Working Time Regulations 1998.

Should you leave within a leave year and holiday has been taken in excess of any entitlement accrued up to the date of departure, then a financial adjustment will be made to your final salary based on the proportion of the year worked.

## Religious holidays

*[Organisation name]* will not ask about your religion and will not discriminate against anyone wishing to celebrate their festivals. You are required to use part of your normal holiday entitlement to cover time off for these.

# Sickness Absence

## Sickness Absence Policy

*[Organisation name]* is committed to maintaining the health, well-being and attendance of all our employees. We value the contribution our employees make to our success and we miss that contribution when any employee is unable to work.

Our absence policy is based on the following principles:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | we undertake to provide reasonable payments to employees who are unable to work due to sickness |
|  | we will support employees who have genuine grounds for absence for whatever reason. This support includes ‘special leave’ for necessary absences not caused by sickness, a flexible approach to the taking of annual leave and returning to work after long term sickness |
|  | we will use an occupational health adviser to help identify the nature of an employee’s illness and advise the employee and the line manager on the best way to improve the employee’s health and well-being |
|  | we will respect the confidentiality of all information relating to an employee’s sickness and information will be held in line with all data protection legislation |

Regular, punctual attendance is an implied term of every employee’s contract of employment and we ask each employee to take responsibility for maintaining good attendance and reporting absence according to the procedures set out in this Handbook.

The disciplinary procedures will be used if an explanation for absence is not forthcoming or is not thought to be satisfactory.

## Absence reporting

You must report your absence from work owing to illness to your line manager by telephone as early as possible, and no later than the normal start of work, on the first day of sickness. When possible notification of absence should be given the previous evening to allow staff cover to be arranged.

In the event that your line manager is unavailable, you should leave a message with *(insert name)* who will record the absence in Staff Squared. When reporting your absence you should give a clear indication of the nature of your illness and the likely date of your return to work.

The first day of your sickness absence will then be added to Staff Squared and will be ongoing until a Return to work date has been added. Here is a link to the [Knowledge Base](https://staffsquared.uservoice.com/knowledgebase/articles/168817-staff-member-how-does-recording-sickness-work) on how recording a sickness in Staff Squared works.

## Certification

A self-certification may be made for the first 7 calendar days of absence. From the 8th day onwards a Fit for work note is required.

A final Fit for work note giving the date on which you will be fit to resume work must be given to your line manager prior to your return to work.

If your absence is not continuously covered by a self-certificate, Fit for work note or in‑patient certificate, it may be treated as an unauthorised absence and dealt with using the Disciplinary Policy.

## Return to Work

Upon your return to work you will need to complete your Return to work date on your dashboard in Staff Squared. Once this has been done you will be asked to complete a self-certification form which will also appear on your dashboard in your To do list.

A ‘Fit for work’ certificate is required should you wish to return to work before your medical certificate runs out.

On return to work your line manager will have an informal discussion with you in order to establish:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | the reason for and cause of your absence |
|  | your fitness to return to work |
|  | whether you need any support to return to work |

## Sent Home

If while you are at work you decide that you are unwell and need to go home, for health and safety purposes you must inform your line manager before you leave the building.

If you have worked less that 50% of your working hours for that day before going home, the remaining hours will be classed as absence and form part of your absence record and entered in Staff Squared.

## Sickness Absence whilst on Annual Leave

If you fall sick during a period of annual leave you may be able to reclaim your entitlement. You must notify your line manager, or in his/her absence *(insert name),* by telephone on the first day of illness and then follow all the stages of the sickness reporting procedure. You must obtain a Doctor’s report about your medical condition, even if this is less than 7 days, if you wish to reclaim your annual leave.

## Medical, Dental or Optician Appointments

Where possible medical appointments should be made outside of working hours. Where this cannot be arranged they should disrupt your working schedule as little as possible, e.g. made early or late in the day. You will be asked to provide satisfactory evidence of appointments such as an appointment card or hospital letter. A request to attend an appointment can be made in Staff Squared by using [Other](https://staffsquared.uservoice.com/knowledgebase/articles/190062-booking-time-off-using-other-absence-types)  in the calendar.

Where attendance for a medical or hospital appointment necessitates a complete day’s absence from work, this will be treated as sick leave and the procedure for self-certification should be followed.

## Absence during pregnancy

Pregnancy related absence will be dealt with separately from sickness absence in accordance with the Statutory Maternity Pay regulations.

# Sick Pay

## Statutory sick pay

In accordance with the eligibility requirements of the Inland Revenue, you may be entitled to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) when you are absent from work due to sickness. The main features of the scheme are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | the first three days of incapacity are unpaid (called ‘waiting days’) |
|  | SSP is paid for up to 28 weeks |
|  | once SSP is exhausted, an employee normally transfers onto benefits paid directly by the Department for Work and Pensions |
|  | If two periods of sickness are separated by less than eight weeks (56 days) then they are linked and the employee need not serve the waiting days again |

Information on statutory sick pay can be obtained from the Inland Revenue.

## Company Sick Pay

*Insert information about additional company sick pay*

Where company sick pay is payable, the amount paid under Statutory Sick Pay will be deducted from employee’s pay.

# Time off

## Special Leave Arrangements

Sympathetic consideration will be given to any hardship, difficulty or special circumstances which might necessitate a request for absence from work on compassionate grounds. Such circumstances might include bereavement or severe illness of a close relative or dependant.

Whilst you are expected to use your annual leave as far as possible for attending to personal affairs, special leave in excess of any statutory entitlement may be allowed in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the line manager. Each request will be considered on its merits but as much advance notice as possible must be given.

Requests for unpaid leave will not normally be allowed except where they relate to the special circumstances described above.

## Antenatal care

All pregnant employees are entitled to time off with pay to keep appointments for antenatal care. Antenatal care may include relaxation classes and parent-craft classes made on the advice of a registered medical practitioner, midwife or health visitor.

Except for the first appointment, you must show your line manager, if requested, a certificate from a registered medical practitioner, midwife or health visitor, confirming the pregnancy together with an appointment card or some other document showing that an appointment has been made.

## Maternity, Paternity and Adoption

All qualifying employees are entitled to statutory maternity, statutory paternity, and statutory adoption leave and pay. A qualifying employee must request and take leave according to the statutory procedure. For further information about statutory entitlements and current rates visit <https://www.gov.uk/maternity-pay-leave>.

## Time off to deal with a family emergency

All employees are entitled to a reasonable time off work without pay, to deal with an emergency involving a dependant. For example, if a dependant falls ill or is injured, if care arrangements break down, or to arrange or attend a dependant's funeral.

## Parental leave

Employees who have completed one year's service are entitled to 13 weeks’ unpaid parental leave for each child born or adopted. The leave can start once the child is born or placed for adoption with the employee or as soon as the employee has completed a year's service, whichever is later.

It may be taken at any time up to the child's fifth birthday (or until five years after placement in the case of adoption). Parents of disabled children can take 18 weeks up to the child's 18th birthday.

## Procedure

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Parental leave may be taken in blocks of a week, unless it is taken to care for a disabled child, when it can be taken in days. The employee can take no more than 4 weeks parental leave in any year. Part of a week counts as a full week in calculating parental leave taken for that year. For example, if a full time employee takes 3 days parental leave and then returns to work, one week is deducted from the 13 week entitlement. |
|  | An employee requesting parental leave is required to give a minimum of 21 days’ notice, specifying start and end dates. Staff Squared should be used to request this leave. |
|  | *[Organisation name]* will agree to the request unless it would be detrimental to the organisation to do so, in which case the organisation will seek to postpone the parental leave. A decision to postpone parental leave will be notified to the employee not more than 7 days after the Employee’s notice was given. |
|  | *[Organisation name]* will not seek to postpone parental leave when it has been requested to coincide with the birth or adoption of a child. |
|  | Parental Leave will not be postponed for any more than 6 months from the date on which the employee requested it to start. |

## Flexible working

Parents of children under the age of six or disabled children under the age of eighteen have the right to apply to *[Organisation Name]* to work more flexibly. The request can cover hours of work, times of work and place of work and may include requests for different patterns of work. Carers of adults also have the right to apply for flexible working.

Procedures for requesting flexible working can be found in the Flexible Working Policy.

## Time Off for Public Duties

Employees who hold certain public positions will be allowed reasonable time off with pay to perform duties associated with that position. The amount of time off allowed will be at the discretion of the line manager and will take account of time off already received and the effect of the absence on the satisfactory running of the organisation.

## Trade Union Membership and Duties

All employees shall be free to join an appropriate trade union. Reasonable time off with pay will be allowed to recognised trade union representatives to enable you to undertake duties concerned with industrial relations within the organisation.

## Supervision and Appraisal

All employees are part of a staff supervision and appraisal process. These are positive exercises designed to encourage and assist staff in their professional and personal development.

It is our policy that employees should have regular supervision with their line manager and an annual appraisal. It is the responsibility of the employee to arrange these meetings and send the appropriate preparation information to their line manager in advance. A record of the supervision or appraisal will be kept on individual personnel files. These files will be kept for one year following the resignation of the employee after which only summary information will be retained to provide references for potential employers if requested by the employee.

# Training, development and promotion

*[Organisation name]* places the highest value on training and development for its staff. We are committed to invest in the training of our staff in order to achieve our business objectives.

Initial and longer term training needs will be agreed with your line manager to enable you to perform your job as effectively as possible. This process will continue as part of your regular performance reviews.

# Communications

Your prime source of information about your role or the organisation is your line manager. It is part of his or her job to inform, answer questions and listen to constructive opinions, comments or suggestions.

*In addition, we have regular staff meeting and team meetings.*

# Performance and Behaviour at Work

## Appearance

*[Organisation name]* does not seek to inhibit individual choice in relation to your appearance. However, you are expected to dress appropriately at all times in relation to your role, and to ensure that your personal hygiene and grooming are properly attended to prior to presenting yourself at work.

*Optional*

*[If we have supplied you with a uniform of other apparel, then you must wear this at all times when required to do so; it is your responsibility to ensure that this is clean and presentable.]*

*Optional*

 *[If your work brings you into contact with the general public then you must remove all visible piercings with the exception of a single set of earrings (or one single earring), and you must ensure your dress and grooming standards reflect the values of your employer.]*

*If you have any queries about what is appropriate, these should be directed to your line manager.*

## Company Premises

*Optional*

 *[You will be issued with an identity badge / appropriate PIN code allowing access to your workplace. This remains the property of [organisation name] and loss of your badge / PIN code (or accidental disclosure to someone) must be reported immediately to your line manager. ]*

*Optional*

 *[You must not bring any unauthorised person on to [organisation name] property without prior agreement from your line manager, unless you are authorised to do so as part of your job. In these circumstances you are responsible for ensuring that your visitors are appropriately monitored during their stay, and that they do not access areas or company property inappropriately.]*

*Optional*

 *[You must not remove [organisation name]’s property from the organisation’s premises unless prior authority from your line manager has been given.]*

## Personal Property

Any personal property such as jewellery, cash, credit cards, clothes, cars, motorbikes or bicycles etc. left on *[organisation name]* premises is done so entirely at your own risk. You are strongly advised not to leave any valuables unattended, either on our premises, our vehicles or in your own vehicle. *[organisation name]* does not accept liability for loss or damage to any personal property whatsoever.

## Telephones & Correspondence

Company telephone / mobile phone or postal facilities must not be used for private purposes without prior permission from your line manager. If, for any reason, personal use is made of these items then arrangements must be made to pay the cost price of all services used. Abuse of these facilities will be considered a potential disciplinary matter.

## Use of computers

The organisation’s IT, Internet and E-mail Policy, is designed to protect the organisation’s computer equipment, prevent inappropriate use and protect confidential data stored on computer files. Every employee must ensure that his/her conduct conforms to the standards set out in this policy.

Internet access and E-mail for personal use is permitted during unpaid break times only.

## Data Protection and Confidentiality

You must be aware of and comply with all elements of the Data Protection Act 1998. No employee should disclose any confidential information either while employed or after having left the organisation, unless specifically given permission to do so. Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with under the disciplinary procedures and may lead to dismissal.

## Smoking

In the interests of the health, safety and comfort of employees and customers and to comply with legislation, the organisation operates a no smoking policy. Any employee found to be smoking on the premises will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

## Consumption of alcohol and drug abuse

The organisation forbids the consumption of alcohol and use or storage of drugs on its premises nor will it permit any employee to work whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Any such instances will be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure and may lead to your summary dismissal.

## Professional conduct and public statements

All employees have a responsibility to act in good faith and to promote the good name and effectiveness of their employer. You are expected to be trustworthy and to conduct yourself reasonably at all times. No employee is permitted to give press or other media interviews or assist with or be involved in the publication of any article relating to the business affairs of the organisation or in relation to the organisation’s intellectual property, without prior consent from the *[Director].*

## Conflict of Interest

You should not, directly or indirectly, engage in, or have any interest, financial or otherwise, in any other business enterprise which interferes or is likely to interfere with your independent exercise of judgement in *[organisation name]*’s best interest.

Generally a conflict of interests exists when an employee is involved in an activity:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | which provides products or services directly to, or purchase products or services from *[organisation name]* |
|  | which subjects the employee to unreasonable time demands that prevent the employee from devoting proper attention to his or her responsibilities to *[organisation name]* |
|  | which is so operated that the employee’s involvement with the outside business activity will reflect adversely on *[organisation name]* |

Should you be in doubt as to whether an activity involves a conflict, you should discuss the situation with your manager.

## Bribery and other Corrupt Behaviour

The Company has a strict anti-bribery and corruption policy in line with the Bribery Act (2010). A bribe is defined as: giving someone a financial or other advantage to encourage that person to perform their functions or activities improperly or to reward that person for having already done so.

If you bribe (or attempt to bribe) another person, intending either to obtain or retain business for the company, or to obtain or retain an advantage in the conduct of the company's business this will be considered gross misconduct. Similarly accepting or allowing another person to accept a bribe will be considered gross misconduct. In these circumstances you will be subject to formal investigation under the Company’s disciplinary procedures, and disciplinary action up to and including dismissal may be applied.

## Mobile phones

In order to preserve the smooth running of the office and to avoid disruption to employees, personal mobile phones should not be used except in the case of emergencies. Mobile phones should either be switched off or silenced during working hours. The office number may be given out to friends and relatives for use in emergencies.

## Expenses Policy

*[Organisation name]* recognises that no member of staff, paid or unpaid, should be placed at financial disadvantage as a result of their work for the organisation. Equally there should be no financial gain.

The Expenses Policy provides guidance on the types of expenses which can be claimed and at what rates. The Policy also ensures that all claims are treated consistently and appropriately.

# Disciplinary Procedure

*[Organisation name]* wishes to ensure high standards from its employees. The Disciplinary Procedure enables the organisation to take appropriate action against you where your performance or conduct is unsatisfactory.

In order to ensure that you are treated fairly and consistently [organisation name] will adopt the following procedure.

## Written Warning

A written warning may be given immediately if it is felt that the matter is serious, if there has been no improvement in standards following a verbal warning or if a further incident of a similar kind occurs. Your line manager or Director will invite you to a hearing to discuss the problem and may give you a written warning.

## Final Written Warning

A final written warning may be given if an initial offence is very serious or if conduct, performance or attendance remains unsatisfactory following a verbal or written warning. It may also be given if an incident of unsatisfactory performance or conduct occurs following a previous verbal or written warning. Your line manager or Director will invite you to a hearing to discuss the problem and may give you a final written warning. The final written warning will state that any recurrence of the offence, or further misconduct of a similar nature within 12 months will result in dismissal. Final written warnings will be kept on your personnel file.

## Dismissal

If, following a final written warning, your performance, conduct or attendance does not improve significantly or further misconduct occurs, you may be dismissed. Dismissal will be authorised by *(insert name)*. Your line manager or Director will invite you to a hearing to discuss the problem, informing you that the disciplinary meeting may lead to your dismissal. Should the meeting result in dismissal, you will be given an amount of notice equivalent to that specified in your Contract of Employment or pay in lieu of such notice. You will have the right to appeal against the decision but where the notice period would expire before the outcome of the appeal is known, you will be suspended without pay until the appeal process is completed. You will receive a written statement of your dismissal within 14 days of the dismissal hearing.

At all stages of the disciplinary procedure you will have the right to be accompanied by a Trade Union Representative or a work colleague. You will also be given the right to appeal against all disciplinary warnings.

## Gross Misconduct

Gross misconduct includes any action which threatens *[organisation name],* its work or its reputation, the people or organisations connected with *[organisation name]* or members of the public or which destroys our trust in you. Examples include theft, damage to property, fraud, incapacity to work through being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or other substance abuse, physical assault or threatening behaviour, gross insubordination, negligence, harassment or any other discriminatory behaviour or conduct which endangers others. It would also cover breaches of confidentiality or professional conduct and inappropriate or misuse of office equipment, including computer, e-mail or internet access.

This list is not exhaustive and actions not listed above may also constitute gross misconduct. If you are accused of an act of gross misconduct you will be suspended on full pay for up to 10 working days whilst an investigation takes place. If, after investigation, it is decided that you have found to be negligent or have committed an act or acts of gross misconduct, you will be dismissed without notice and without pay in lieu of notice.

## Suspension

If *(insert name or work title)* considers that the matter may result in your dismissal, with or without notice, or that your presence may result in a witness in any disciplinary proceedings feeling intimidated, you may be suspended on full pay. The fact of such suspension will not be taken into account in any disciplinary proceedings.

## Appeals

You are entitled to appeal against any disciplinary warning or decision to dismiss. To do so you must notify *(insert name or work title)* or, in his/her absence, *(insert name or work title)*, in writing within five working days of receiving the written warning or other written notification of any decision. Your letter must specify the issues you wish to appeal against or contest.

## Grievance procedure

[*Organisation name*]’s aim is always to encourage employees to have an open and honest relationship with their line manager and colleagues and to raise any concerns about any aspect of their employment in an appropriate manner. This procedure should be used to settle all disputes or grievances which you may wish to raise concerning other employees or volunteers, your work, the organisation or other matters relating to your employment or volunteering. The purpose is to settle any grievance fairly, simply and quickly.

## **Stage 1**

If you have a grievance about a matter concerned with your employment you should set out your grievance in writing and send the statement or a copy of it to your line manager.

## **Stage 2**

Your manager will invite you to a hearing to discuss the grievance. You have the right to be accompanied at this hearing by a colleague or by a trade union official.

After the hearing your manager will inform you of *[organisation name]*’s response to your grievance.

## Stage 3

If you wish to appeal against *[organisation name]*’s response to your grievance you should contact your line manager. You have the right to be accompanied at this hearing by a colleague or by a Trade Union Representative.

Where reasonably practical, the appeal will be dealt with by a more senior manager than the one who attended the first hearing.

Full details of *[organisation name]*’s Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures are available.

This Disciplinary and Grievance procedures is not legally binding and do not form part of your contract of employment.

# Whistleblowing

If you have any concerns about *[organisation name],* and its work, these should be raised with *(insert name or work title)*. If *(insert name or work title)* isn’t available or the issue raised concerns *(insert name or work title)*, the issue should be raised with *(insert name or work title)*. All employees are protected by the Public Disclosure Act.

# Equal opportunities

The Equal Opportunities Policy aims to promote equality, harmony and respect amongst individuals and to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of all kinds. Every employee must ensure that his/her conduct conforms to the standards set out in this policy statement.

# Health and safety

*[Organisation name]* has a legal duty to protect the health and safety of its employees and others. We take this responsibility seriously and have made health and safety a management priority. We expect our employees at all levels to take care to avoid injury to themselves and others and to co-operate with the implementation of the company’s health and safety arrangements.

The company has adopted a health and safety policy which contains details of these responsibilities and arrangements. All employees are required to be proactive and familiarise themselves with the health and safety policy. Acceptance of, and adherence, to the company’s Health and Safety Policy forms part of the contract of employment.

# Termination of employment

If you wish to resign you must give the required written notice to your line manager as stated in your contract of employment. If *[organisation name]* decides to terminate your employment you will be notified in writing.

Unless your written statement of your main terms and conditions of employment specifies longer periods of notice, the minimum periods of notice are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Length of continuous service | Notice entitlement |
| More than one month but less than two years | One week |
| More than two years but less than three years | Two weeks |
| More than three years but less than four years and so on with an extra week for each year up to 12 years | Three weeks |
| More than 12 years | 12 weeks |

 *[Organisation name]* may give the equivalent pay in lieu of notice.

On leaving *[Organisation name],* you must return all items of *[organisation name]*’s property eg. mobile phone, laptop, documentation. Failure to do so may incur a deduction from your final salary payment.

*[Organisation name]* may require an employee to take garden leave and the organisation has no obligation to provide work during this time, but all contractual benefits will continue to apply.

# Retirement

In line with current legislation *[Organisation name]* does not have an age where it expects employees to retire. It is however our policy to have regular workplace/appraisal discussions with all our staff where they can discuss performance and any development needs they may have, as well as their future aims and aspirations. Staff and their managers can also use this opportunity to discuss retirement planning should the employee wish to do so.

You should ensure that you inform your line manager at least 6 months before you plan to retire to ensure all appropriate arrangements are made (e.g. sourcing a replacement, mobilising your Company pension etc.).



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