



St Peter's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre

Policy Document – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 St Peter's High School is a large and complex organisation and is committed to discharging its responsibility to safeguard public funds and the highest standards of integrity. It is committed to fighting fraud and corruption whether attempted from inside or outside. St Peter's High School is committed to having effective measures to prevent and detect fraud and corruption.
- 1.2 St Peter's High School expects all members and employees to carry out their duties in accordance with appropriate legal requirements, internal codes of practice, rules and regulations and to act at all times with honesty and probity in the discharge of their functions.
- 1.3 In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, St Peter's High School is determined to do everything it reasonably can to protect itself and the public from fraud and corruption and is committed to the rigorous maintenance of this Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy which will provide a framework for:
- Encouraging fraud deterrence and prevention;
 - Raising awareness of fraud and corruption and promoting their detection;
 - Performing investigations and facilitating recovery of losses;
 - Invoking disciplinary proceeding and referrals to the Police; and
 - Monitoring, publishing and updating the Strategy and its related procedures and performance.
- 1.4 St Peter's High School also expects that all outside individuals and organisations, including suppliers, contracting partners and claimants will act toward it with honesty and integrity without thought or actions involving fraud and corruption.
- 1.5 This Strategy is part of St Peter's High School's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework and sits alongside policies and guidance including Whistleblowing Policy, Bribery Policy and employees' Code of Conduct.

2 DEFINITIONS

St Peter's High School defines the following:

Theft is 'the dishonest taking of property belonging to another person with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of its possession.'

Fraud is 'the intentional distortion of the financial statements or other records by persons internal or external to the organisation which is carried out to conceal the misappropriation of assets or otherwise for gain.' This differs from "theft" where no attempt at concealment is made. It is also important to distinguish this from negligence and accidental error where no intent exists. This may involve:

- Falsification or alteration of accounting records or other documents
- Suppression or omission of the effects of transactions from records or documents
- Recording transactions which have no substance
- Wilful misrepresentation of transactions or of St Peter's High School's state of affairs



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Corruption is 'The offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward which may influence actions taken by the body, its members or officers.' Main areas of activity, which are susceptible to corruption may include:

- Contracts
- Asset Disposal
- Planning consents and licenses

3 OPERATING CULTURE

- 3.1 St Peter's High School is determined that the culture and tone of the organisation meets the expectations of the Committee on Standards of Public Life and the Standards Board for England. It is committed to the ten principles of public life: objectivity, openness, stewardship, leadership, accountability, honesty & integrity, selflessness, personal judgement, duty to uphold the law and respect for others.
- 3.2 Employees are expected, and are positively encouraged to raise any concerns relating to fraud and corruption, which they become aware of. These can be raised in a number of ways including with the employee's line manager or Principal.
- 3.3 St Peter's High School expects members and employees to lead by example in ensuring opposition to fraud and corruption, and in ensuring adherence to rules and regulations, and to relevant Codes of Conduct, and that all procedures and practices are beyond reproach. The responsibility of senior managers is to ensure that all employees are aware of what is expected of them.
- 3.4 St Peter's High School requires all individuals and organisations with whom it deals in any capacity to behave with integrity and without intent or actions involving fraud and corruption.
- 3.5 St Peter's High School employees and members of the public are important elements in the stance against fraud and corruption and are positively encouraged to raise any concerns they may have on these issues which may impact on St Peter's High School activities using St Peter's High School's Whistleblowing Strategy or St Peter's High School's Complaints Procedures.
- 3.6 As part of its responsibilities, an audit is required to investigate activities suspected of involving fraud and corruption. The audit and training plans are required to provide adequate coverage of the risk of fraud and corruption and also to reflect the requirements of staff to be properly and regularly trained.
- 3.7 Where appropriate, St Peter's High School operates with other local authorities and public sector bodies in the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption. This includes as part of the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN).
- 3.8 Although St Peter's High School encourages its employees to report concerns acting in good faith, any maliciously motivated and unfounded allegations may be dealt with through its disciplinary procedures.
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4 PREVENTION

- 4.1 It is the corporate responsibility of St Peter's High School to put in place preventative measures to fight fraud and corruption to minimise risk.
- 4.2 St Peter's High School's Procedure Rules, Standing Orders, Schemes of Delegation together with Financial Regulations, Codes of Conduct and Codes of Practice set out a framework for dealing with the affairs of St Peter's High School and all members and employees have a duty to comply with their provisions. This includes the duty of employees to act within statutory regulations.
- 4.3 Members must operate in accordance with St Peter's High School's Procedure Rules and Code of Conduct.
- 4.4 St Peter's High School has put in place systems and procedures to manage and discharge its functions in an efficient and effective way. These systems incorporate internal controls to prevent and deter fraud and corruption. Employees must ensure that working practices comply with the systems and Audit Services will regularly evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness.
- 4.5 Thorough documentation, including manuals and operating procedures are required. Effective control is expected of all financial and operational systems and the above documents must be issued to relevant staff. These must be regularly reviewed to ensure in line with best practice and effective internal controls.
- 4.6 Employee recruitment is required to be in accordance with procedures laid down in the Keeping Children Safe in Education and, in particular adequate checks made appropriate to the posts and before any appointment is made.

5 DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 All managers are responsible for the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption and other irregularities. Managers should pay special attention to particular circumstances, which may indicate an irregularity.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of all employees, in particular Managers to immediately inform the Principal if a fraud or other irregularity is suspected. They should also ensure that:
- Any supporting documentation or other evidence is secured; and
 - Confidentiality is maintained so as to not prejudice any subsequent investigation.
- 5.3 Reporting of suspected irregularities to the Principal is essential because it:
- Ensures the consistent treatment of information;
 - Facilitates proper investigation, including compliance with statutory with requirements and appropriate liaison at correct stages with the Police; and



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- Ensures the proper implementation of relevant system improvements.

5.4 St Peter's High School will take appropriate action following an investigation including disciplinary action, civil recovery and referral to the Police.

5.5 St Peter's High School will work in partnership with other organisations for the detection and investigation of fraud and corruption. These organisations include the Police/Fraud Squad, Heads of Internal Audit Groups, National Anti- Fraud Network and Audit Commission.

6 TRAINING

6.1 Training and guidance is vital in maintaining the effectiveness of this Strategy and its general credibility. St Peter's High School supports induction and work related training, particularly for employees involved in internal control systems, to ensure that their responsibilities and duties are regularly highlighted and reinforced and best practice is followed.

7 REVIEW

7.1 St Peter's High School has in place a clear framework of systems and procedures to deter and investigate fraud and corruption. It will ensure that these arrangements are fair, monitored and updated to keep pace with future developments in preventative, deterrent and detection techniques.

Please refer to the School's child protection/safeguarding policies for guidance on any safeguarding/child protection issues that this policy may highlight. The School's child protection/safeguarding policies can be found on the School's website. The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Executive policy can be found at www.gsrb.org.uk.