



The Robert Carre Trust

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

Introduction

This policy is applicable to all employees of The Robert Carre Trust.

The Trust maintains high standards and an anti-fraud culture, and this policy provides a clear message as to its attitude toward fraud, corruption and other impropriety.

Background

The United Kingdom public sector maintains high standards of probity and has a good reputation for protecting the public purse. The Robert Carre Trust shares 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.

As part of the Trust'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 Trust of financial losses due to fraud, corruption and financial impropriety are minimised.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that the citizens of Sleaford have complete confidence that the affairs of the schools for which the Trust is responsible are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of probity and accountability. As part of this commitment the Trust is committed to combating fraud, corruption and other financial impropriety (e.g. theft) wherever it may arise in relation to any of the Trust's activities or services and, in achieving this aim, realises that any Member, Trustee, member of a Local Governing Body or Trust appointed worker, member of the public, or any other third party associated with the Trust's activities may be involved.

Commitment

The Robert Carre Trust expects Members, Trustees, Governors and its Trust appointed workers to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, probity, openness and integrity in the discharge of their functions. This includes:

Standards

- 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;
- providing a framework within which counter fraud arrangements will flourish, and promoting an anti-fraud and corruption culture within the Trust;
- likewise the Robert Carre Trust expects 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 Trust;
- the Trust is committed to establishing and maintaining effective arrangements to prevent fraud, corruption and financial impropriety. The Trust 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.

Implementation

RCT Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy adopted 26 February 2020

The Robert Carre Trust is committed to creating and maintaining an anti-fraud and corruption culture which promotes the highest standards of conduct and which enables Members, Trustees, Governors, Trust 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 Trust's Whistle-blowing Policy.

The Trust will not tolerate dishonesty on the part of any Member, Trustee, Governor, Trust appointed worker or any person or organisation involved in any way with the Trust. Where fraud or corruption is detected the Trust 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 Trust is committed to working constructively with the police and other relevant agencies in relation to combating fraud, corruption and financial impropriety within the Trust or within the wider public sector.

The Trust will seek to ensure that its stance on anti-fraud and corruption is widely publicised both internally and externally to the Trust. Members, Trustees, Governors, employees and other associated bodies/persons with whom the Trust conducts its business will be appropriately briefed as to this policy.

Reviewed at the meeting of the Finance, Resources and Audit Committee on 4 February 2020

Ratified at the meeting of the Board on 26 February 2020

Next Review Date: March 2024 (4 years)