# 

# Code of Professional Conduct for registrants (CRST8)

**Scope of the code**

This Code of Professional Conduct and Practice has been developed as a positive exemplification of the values and professional practice expected of those individuals holding the designation of Registered Scientist (RSci), Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) and Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) with particular reference to their work related to science teaching and learning. It has been developed to complement similar codes to which such persons may be subjected. In particular all registered teachers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are required to observe the codes of conduct and practice as determined by the relevant General Teaching Council or equivalent body.

It should be noted that neither the ASE nor the Science Council are employers with respect to the RSci, RSciTech and CSciTeach designation and therefore do not have a role in relation to workplace or employment disputes which are matters for trades unions and professional associations that take on such issues

The code of conduct for registrants is based on the code of conduct for all ASE members.

**Professional values**

• conduct their professional activities ethically and with integrity;

• be inclusive, show respect for others and not unlawfully discriminate because of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) or other characteristics and circumstances not included in this legislation, such as sexual orientations not included within the Equality Act and adoption and wider parental leave

• act fairly and honestly in all situations and never engage in corrupt practices;

• be sensitive to the values, interests and opinions of other individuals/ groups, both within ASE and the wider community.

**Professional behaviour**

• demonstrate and promote fair and reasonable standards in the treatment of people who are operating within their sphere of influence;

• ensure that their professional judgment is not compromised nor could be perceived as being compromised because of bias, or the undue influence of others;

• make professional judgements and offer opinions that are based on evidence and with due regard for objectivity, reliability and the limitations of their professional expertise;

• accept majority decisions with good grace;

• treat all information with the appropriate level of confidentiality and act accordingly in relation to disclosure to others;

• endeavour to promote the interests of and maintain the dignity and welfare of the Association and the science teaching profession.

### **Professional responsibilities**

• maintain a broad and up to date understanding of regulations and requirements in their field of expertise;

• be mindful of the distinction between acting in a personal and professional/corporate capacity;

• act in a professional manner when dealing with the media in all its forms only commenting on matters which fall within their area of expertise and taking care to distinguish between statements of fact and expressions of opinion;

• act in a way which supports and upholds the reputation of the Association for Science Education or other related professional organizations.

**Additional expectations for registrants**

* Undertake appropriate Continual Professional Development (CPD) and be able to demonstrate this to others;
* Further the interests of and maintain the dignity and welfare of the ASE and the Science Council.
* Minimise their impact on the environment including encouraging the fair and sustainable use of resources.

Where members/staff are of the opinion that the code has been broken they should report this. If an individual considers that they have been affected by the non-adherence of a member or member of staff they should report as follows:

* staff report to their line manger
* members report to the Chair of Trustees

The Trustee Body of the Association may take action where they believe the code has been broken. Any action(s)/sanctions agreed will be within the Rules of the Association.

Should issues not be dealt with to the satisfaction of a member then they should refer to the ASE Complaints Procedure; staff should use the ‘Discipline and Grievance’ policy set out within the employee’s handbook.

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