

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR TEACHERS

Developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) jointly with All India Primary Teacher's Federation (AIPTF), All India Secondary Teacher's Federation (AISTF), and All India Federation of Educational Associations (AIFEA)

Introduction

It is universally felt that the status of teaching profession requires to be raised to ensure its dignity and integrity. Accordingly, it is considered necessary that there should be a code of ethics which may be evolved by the teaching community itself for its guidance.

There are five major areas of professional activities which encompass the work of a teacher. For each of these areas certain principles have been identified to serve as guidelines for teacher's conduct. These are preceded by a Preamble which provides a rationale for the principles identified.

Preamble

- Recognising that every child has a fundamental right to receive education of good quality;
- Recognising that education should be directed to all round development of human personality;
- Realising the need for developing faith in the guiding principles of our polity viz. Democracy, social justice and secularism;
- Recognising the need to promote through education, our rich culture heritage, national consciousness, international understanding and world peace;
- Recognising that teacher's, being part and parcel of the social milieu, share the needs and aspirations of the people;
- Recognising the need to organise teaching as a profession for which expert knowledge, specialised skills and dedication are pre-requisites;
- Realising that the community respect and support for the teaching community are dependent on the quality of teaching and teacher's proper attitudes towards teaching profession; and
- Realising the need for self-direction and self-discipline among members of the teaching community.

We, the teacher's of India resolve to adopt this code of Professional Ethics.

PART – I

Teacher in Relation to Students

The teachers shall,

1. always be punctual in attending to duties in the school;
2. always teach the curriculum after making thorough preparation for the lessons to be taught;
3. treat all students with love and affection and be just and impartial to all irrespective of caste, creed, sex, status, religion, language and place of birth;
4. guide the students in their physical, social, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual development;
5. take notice of the individual needs and differences among students in their socio-cultural background and adapt his/her teaching accordingly;
6. refrain from accepting remuneration for coaching or tutoring his/her own students except for remedial teaching under an approved scheme;
7. refrain from divulging confidential information about students except to those who are legitimately entitled to it;
8. refrain from inciting students against other students, teaches or administration;
9. set a standard of dress, speech and behaviour worthy of example to the students; and
10. respect basic human dignity of children while maintain discipline in the school.

PART – II

Teacher in Relation to Parents/ Guardians

The teacher shall,

11. seek to establish cordial relations with parents/ guardians;
12. provide information regularly to parents regarding the attainments and shortfalls of the wards; and
13. Refrain from doing any thing which may undermine students confidence in their parents or guardians.

PART – III

Teacher in Relation to Society and the Nation

The teacher shall

14. strive to develop the educational institution as a community and human resource development centre providing knowledge and information and developing skills and attitudes needed for such development;
15. strive to understand the social problems and take part in such activities as would be conducive to meet the challenges posed by the problems;
16. refrain from taking part in activities having potential to spread feeling of hatred or enmity among different communities, religious or linguistic groups;
17. work actively to strengthen national integration and spirit of togetherness and oneness;
18. respect Indian culture and develop positive attitudes towards it among students; and
19. respect and be loyal to the school, community, state and nation.

PART – IV

Teacher in Relation to Profession, colleagues and other Professional Organisations

A. Teacher in relation to Colleagues and Profession

The teacher shall

20. treat other members of the profession in the same manner as he/ she himself/herself wishes to be treated;
21. refrain from lodging unsubstantiated allegations against colleagues or higher authorities;
22. participate in programmes of professional growth like in-service education and training, seminars, symposia workshops, conferences, self study etc;
23. avoid making derogatory statements about colleagues especially in the presence of pupils, other teachers, officials or parents;
24. cooperate with the head of the institution and colleagues in and outside the institution in both curricular and co-curricular activities; and
25. accept as a professional the individual responsibility of reporting to the concerned authorities in an appropriate manner all matters that are considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the students and the development of the institution.

B. Teacher in Relation to Professional Organisations

The teacher shall

26. take membership of professional organizations treating it as a professional responsibility;
27. participate as a matter of right in the formulation of policies and programmes of professional organizations and contribute to their strength, unity and solidarity; and
28. always function within the framework of the Constitution of the organization concerned.

PART – V

Teacher in Relation to Management/ Administration

The teacher shall,

29. recognize the management as the prime source of his sustainable development; and
30. develop mutual respect and trust through his professional activities and outputs.

Observance of the Code

A true professional organization regulates admission of its members, exerts control over them and fights against all odds to promote their welfare. It, thus represents unified voice of its members. The professional organizations of teachers should take upon themselves the moral responsibilities to safeguard all clauses of this code by ensuring their observance by the teachers. They should accept the responsibility to evolve a suitable mechanism for its enforcement.