



West Winch Primary School

Anti-Fraud Policy 2026

Purpose & Aims

For the purposes of this policy statement fraud includes all irregularities which could normally be described as theft, deception, fraud, corruption, or impropriety. Fraud is always wrong. In any organisation, it countermands the management at every level and positive action is needed to prevent and discourage it. The prevention of fraud and the protection of the School is the responsibility of every member of staff. In every case, reported suspicions will be passed to an audit committee who will decide on the subsequent course of action.

When fraud is identified, action will be taken to:

- limit the damage,
- seek reparation for losses incurred
- punish the perpetrators.
- revise procedures to prevent any recurrence

Response to Suspected Fraud

The School has rules which attempt to allocate resources on a fair and even-handed basis. Fraudulent activity circumvents these rules and gives an unfairly generous allocation to one or more individuals to the detriment of all others.

Reporting of Suspected Fraud

Any suspicion of fraud should be reported to a member of the Senior Management Team. If it is considered more appropriate (for example, if a member of the Senior Management Team is involved) the suspicions may be reported directly to the Chair of Governors.

After a Suspicion is Reported

The Senior Management Team member or Governor will make any initial enquiries considered necessary to validate the report. In every case and as soon as possible after this initial investigation, he or she will pass the matter to the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Governing Body. Even if there is no evidence to support the allegation, the matter must be reported.

The Audit Sub-Committee

The management of any investigation will be undertaken by an audit sub-committee setup and controlled by the finance committee. They will:

1. determine whether further investigation is warranted;
2. determine whether the matter should be reported to chair of governors, Headteacher, special meeting of the governors and/or the LA;
3. determine who should carry out the investigation;
4. determine which outside agencies (police, auditors, LA) should be involved;
5. assess the risk to the School;
6. determine to whom day to day management of the response should be given;
7. allocate responsibility for damage limitation action;
8. determine the course of action to recover losses;
9. determine the course of action to be taken against wrongdoers;
10. evaluate the events which enabled the fraud to occur;
11. ensure preventative action is taken.

Adopted: Spring 2026

Review: Spring 2027

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heather Habbin - Chair of Governing Body