



## The Code of Fundraising Practice – is it relevant to schools’ development?

### What is the Code of Fundraising Practice?

The Code of Fundraising Practice (the code) sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK, including schools who are fundraising.

### Why is there a Code of Fundraising Practice?

The code aims to develop a culture of honesty, openness and respect between fundraisers and the public. Having a code creates a consistent, high standard of fundraising; it ensures fundraisers know what is expected of them; and that the Fundraising Regulator has a set of standards to use when considering complaints.

### Does the code provide a legal framework for fundraising?

The code does include standards that reflect the law, but it is not designed to be a legal handbook. In the new version of the code, it is clearly marked with bold text when the code refers to a strict legal requirement, something fundraisers **must** or **must not** do.

### Does the code apply to fundraising across the whole of the UK?

There are some regulatory differences across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The new code now clearly identifies these national differences with shaded boxes.

### Is the code relevant to development professionals?

Yes - the code is a set of standards for any organisation carrying out fundraising.

The very first ‘rule’ of the code states: *‘Your fundraising **must** be legal and must be open, honest and respectful.’* The way fundraisers ask for support affects people’s trust and confidence in all fundraising. The code details the best practice that schools, like any organisation carrying out fundraising, strive to achieve.

### So, how should development professionals use the code?

The code is essentially a handbook, a guide, to support you with your fundraising. Whether it’s considering best practice in processing donations or managing your fundraising events, the code is there to show you the expected standard for each aspect of fundraising. Over the coming months, we will be exploring the different sections of the code and their relevance to schools’ development.



### What happens if we don't adhere to the code?

For organisations registered with the Fundraising Regulator, part of this registration includes a commitment to meet the standards set out in the code, the *Fundraising Promise* (find out more about registering with the [Fundraising Regulator](#)).

However, regardless of whether a school is registered with the Regulator, if the Regulator is investigating a complaint from the public about fundraising practice in your school, it will refer to the set of standards in the code, and from September, the Regulator will also be publishing details of the complaints against charities (or schools) it has investigated.

*Next month, we will be exploring section 2 of the code, on **Responsibilities of charitable institutions and those who govern them.***