



# CODE OF ETHICS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

### **CODE OF ETHICS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

#### **1.0 GENERAL**

- 1.1 The term “teacher” here refers to all persons classified as assistant teachers, assistant head teachers, head teachers, heads of departments in schools, assistant principals, vice principals, school principals and all others who are directly involved with the education of children in the classroom.
- 1.2 The term ethics means moral principles
- 1.3 The teacher, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognises the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic principles.
- 1.4 Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunities for all.
- 1.5 The teacher accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards
- 1.6 The teacher recognises the great responsibility on the shoulders of a person entrusted with the authority to impart knowledge, skills and values to students in the teaching process.
- 1.7 The desire for the respect and confidence of one’s colleagues, of students, of parents, and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.
- 1.8 The code of ethics of the teaching profession and provides standards by which to judge conduct.
- 1.9 Teachers, at all times, are to ensure personal service to others through concern for, and responsible promotion of the education and welfare of children, students and their fellow teachers.

#### **2.0 PROFESSIONAL GOALS**

Teachers accept that realisation of the goals implicit in this ideal depends upon:

- 2.1 the attainment of high and relevant qualifications, expert knowledge, and specialized skills.
- 2.2 continuing inquiry into, and evaluation of the teaching process
- 2.3 a proper understanding of human development, and the values which are fundamental to worthwhile social living.

### **3.0 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

In determining their conduct, teachers should recognise:

- 3.1 their obligation to advance the causes of education and hence the causes of the teaching profession.
- 3.2 that individuals can make a significant contribution to the community
- 3.3 that each child is an individual and that children can differ in what is required for the promotion of their education
- 3.4 their obligation to assist all children to develop their talents to the fullest extent.
- 3.5 that they should respect the personal integrity of their colleagues.
- 3.6 that they have an obligation to help their colleagues to maintain the highest standards of professional competence.
- 3.7 that they should improve their effectiveness and efficiency as teachers
- 3.8 that they should work with parents and community to promote the welfare of children
- 3.9 that they have an obligation to enhance their professional image in the community.

### **4.0 PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT**

In carrying out their responsibilities, they agree:-

- 4.1 to be held responsible for the maintenance of their professional standards
- 4.2 to use the established procedures for reporting unprofessional conduct.
- 4.3 to advance and protect the professional welfare of their colleagues, both individually and collectively
- 4.4 to manifest personal responsibility, individual initiative and integrity in their teaching, and other professional actions, within guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Education.
- 4.5 to be ready to meet their professional obligations, in particular, to be available when for consultation on measures which affect the profession.

4.6 to accept that the profession should, whenever necessary, respect the confidentiality of certain information, and that they, as members of the teaching profession, should render every assistance in determining which information is to be so treated.

4.7 to abide by, and act upon all decisions/instructions governing their profession

4.8 to be dressed in a manner that is acceptable to their profession and the community.

4.9 to be responsible for their own actions and judgements and be prepared to stand by their consequences.

## **5.0 UNETHICAL CONDUCT**

Specific actions declared to be unprofessional are:

5.1 for any teacher to attempt to influence the Minister, the Ministry of Education, school management or school board on matters affecting teaching.

5.2 for any teacher to censure other teachers or to criticize their work in public

5.3 for any teacher to be found guilty of conduct seriously detrimental to the interests of the profession or the school community.

5.4 for any teacher by public statement to bring the profession into disrepute.

5.5 for any teacher, on the basis of race, colour, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background, sexual orientation, unfairly-

- a) exclude any student from participation in any school programme
- b) deny benefits to any student
- c) grant advantage to any student.

5.6 for any teacher to breach the pupils trust or behave in a manner that is detrimental to the students' interests

5.7 for a teacher to behave in a manner calculated to cause unreasonable distress to the students interests.