

PATOSS

Code of Ethics for Specialist Teachers and Assessors

I. Preamble

The aims of Patoss, The Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties, are

- To advance the profession of specialist teaching and assessment in specific learning difficulties
- Establish and maintain the professional status of those qualified to teach and assess students with specific learning difficulties;
- Promote fuller understanding and recognition of SpLD;
- Give a professional corporate response to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on matters affecting SpLD students;
- Enable members to update and extend their knowledge and skills and to exchange ideas through annual association conference, bulletins and local groups;
- Promote the continued provision and development of appropriate specialist qualifications in the teaching of students with SpLD;
- Promote links with teachers working with SpLD students in all sectors of education;
- Promote links with other professionals involved in the field of SpLD.

The Code

II. Principles

A. Each member of the company shall, in pursuing the profession of specialist teacher and/or assessor:

1. Give balanced advice;
2. Maintain high standards of personal conduct;
3. Exercise independence of thought and action;
4. Seek to advance the professional standards of specialist teaching and assessing;
5. Take steps to enhance the quality of her/his work.

III. Practice

A. When seeking or accepting professional engagements a practitioner shall:

1. Seek or accept only those engagements for which s/he has suitable knowledge and experience;
2. Ensure that her/his resources are sufficient to carry out the assignment;
3. Define clearly, the terms and conditions of the assignment or service, including the scope, nature and period of the service to be provided, the allocation of responsibilities and the basis for remuneration;
4. Negotiate agreements and charges for professional services in an ethical and proper way.

B. When undertaking a professional engagement, a member shall safeguard the position of her/his client by:

1. Regarding the client's requirements and interests as paramount, subject to any overriding legal constraint or ethical consideration;
2. Sub-contracting work only with the prior agreement of the client;
3. Holding as strictly confidential all information concerning the affairs of a client unless the client has released the information for public use or has given specific permission for its disclosure;

- 4. Ensuring that, as appropriate, all programmes and advice have been discussed with the client in good time before they are finalised;**
- 5. Exercising good management through careful planning regular progress reviews and effective controls;**
- 6. Taking responsibility for the quality of any work undertaken by her/himself or any sub-contractors;**
- 7. Where s/he recommends further consultancy, declaring any personal interest that may exist in such further work;**
- 8. Discussing and agreeing with the client any significant changes in the objectives, scope, approach or anticipated benefits of the assignment which might arise during the course of carrying it out.**

C. During the course of an assignment, a member of the Association shall maintain her/his own professional independence by:

- 1. Avoiding any action which might be seen to compromise her/his integrity;**
- 2. Ensuring that advice and recommendations are based on impartial consideration of all pertinent facts, circumstances and opinions developed from reliable and relevant sources;**
- 3. Declaring at the first possible opportunity any personal, financial or business relationship or interest which might be thought to influence her/his judgement or objectivity, and withdrawing from any assignment when her/his judgement or objectivity is or might be compromised;**
- 4. Having a proper regard for the professional/legal obligations of those with whom s/he is working;**
- 5. Initiating or accepting a joint assignment with another specialist teacher only if she is satisfied that the assignment will be carried out in accordance with the principles and standards of this Code;**
- 6. Giving only information which is factual and relevant to the profession of SpLD specialist**

teacher/assessor when publicising her/his work or services;

7. Acknowledging the source of any published or other research material used in her/his work.

D. During the course of an assignment a practitioner shall guard against circumstances which might compromise her/his personal integrity and in particular:

1. Shall not accept inducements to show favour;
2. Shall not use, knowingly and without permission, copyright material or proprietary data or material, to which s/he is not entitled.

IV. Quality

A. Each member of the Association undertakes to take steps to maintain and enhance the quality of her/his work by ensuring that s/he personally has:

1. The necessary professional experience for any assignment undertaken;
2. Appropriate professional knowledge and the ability to make sound and independent judgements based on that knowledge;
3. Appropriate strategies for ensuring her/his professional development and for keeping well informed of current issues in education.

V. Use of the Code:

A. Each member shall:

1. Inform a client of her/his membership of the Association and of the existence of this Code of Ethics at the start of any engagement where the member (i) is the principal consultant in whose name the engagement has been made or (ii) is the lead consultant or relevant partner in the consultancy with whom the client has entered into a contract, and supply a copy of the Code on request;
2. Respond to any complaint from a client concerning compliance with this Code and co-operate with the Association's officers in the investigation of any complaint made to the Association.