

# PROMPT SHEET FOR PRINCIPALS

and others arranging group discussions on

## The Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers which include standards of teaching, knowledge, skill and competence.

This prompt sheet is intended to support group discussions among teachers on the Codes of Professional Conduct which include standards of teaching, knowledge, skill and competence. There is much to be gained by opening up a discussion on the Codes and this prompt sheet is aimed at principals or other teachers who might wish to facilitate such discussions. It is to be read in conjunction with the Codes which are available on the Teaching Council web-site [www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie)

We hope that it will provide a useful framework within which to reflect on professional practice and conduct in the teaching profession.

### SUGGESTED PREPARATION

In advance of the discussion, it would be useful if all participants had read the Codes which can be downloaded from the Teaching Council web-site [www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie). Some teachers may have undertaken a personal reflection exercise using the Prompt Sheet for Teachers, which is also available on the web-site.

### THE DISCUSSION

The group may wish to reflect on the questions below while reviewing the Codes.

- What are the core values which underpin teaching in this school?
- What would others say this school stands for in education?
- How do we exemplify ethics in our work?
- What guides us in our professional practice?

### Reviewing the Codes

The Codes are structured as follows:

- The Core Values
- The Code of Professional Practice
- The Code of Professional Conduct

It is recommended that groups consider one section at a time and reflect on the relevant question in considering each section.

#### Core Values

To what extent does each statement accurately describe the core values which underpin teaching?

#### Code of Professional Practice

To what extent does each sub-section in the Code of Professional Practice accurately capture the standards of professional practice to which teachers are committed?

#### Code of Professional Conduct

To what extent does each statement in the Code of Professional Conduct accurately capture the standards of professional conduct to which teachers are committed?

Allow participants a few moments to read each sub-section and jot down their responses to the relevant question.

After each of the three sections, ask a member of the group to share his/her responses with the group.

Record the main points on a flip chart. Use questions such as "Does this capture the essence of what you said?" to ensure you are accurately representing the participant's views.

It is recommended that you continue like this until all members of the group have had an opportunity to share their responses.

Allow a period of time for all responses recorded on the flip chart to be discussed or clarified and, where appropriate, a consensus view reached.

### CLOSING THE DISCUSSION

After all questions have been addressed and reviewed, take five minutes to make some closing comments. These comments should summarise the main points of the meeting under the headings of Core Values, Code of Professional Practice and Code of Professional Conduct.

Should you have any comments to make in relation to the Codes, please feel free to use the Comments Form which is available on our web-site. You can email it to us at [Codes@teachingcouncil.ie](mailto:Codes@teachingcouncil.ie) or by post to Teaching Council, Block A, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Please mark your correspondence "Codes".