



# Online Teacher Community (OTC) platform

## Code of Conduct

The British Council Online Teacher Community (OTC) is a community for English language teachers and other ELT-related professionals who wish to engage in exchange of experience, knowledge, and ideas.

This document outlines the main Code of Conduct for all platform users.

By registering on the Online Teacher Community platform, you accept the Code of Conduct and you are expected to adhere to it.

### What is the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct is a set of principles that defines the way all members of the Online Teacher Community should interact, regardless of where they are based and whatever their role on the platform.

### Why is it important?

It helps everyone understand what is allowed and what expectations there are of everybody engaging on the platform.

- 1) **Work of the British Council is underpinned by our corporate values** which define everything we say and do, how we work with people, behave towards them and communicate. Here is a brief description of what each one means to us:

#### ***Open and committed***

*Our belief in what we do translates into a deep and long-term commitment to the people we work with and the places where we work. We tackle challenges and take responsibility with openness and honesty to bring about positive change.*

#### ***Expert and inclusive***

*Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. By involving everyone in the conversation we learn from each other and bring together all of our experience, knowledge and expertise to do the best work that we can.*

#### ***Optimistic and bold***

*We believe in the potential of young people to create a better world. Inspired by this optimism, we are positive and creative and we focus on what works. We are not afraid to make bold choices to shape a better future for everyone.*

All interactions on the Online Teacher Community, as well as the overall programme offered through the platform, is governed by these values and we expect all members of the community to demonstrate them through their participation.



## **2) The Online Teacher Community is safeguarding-oriented**

An integral part of the British Council work is the Safeguarding Policy. The Policy sets out the broad framework and expectations relating to safeguarding of children and adults. The term safeguarding is used to define actions taken to protect vulnerable groups from any offline and online abuse. The British Council promotes a zero- tolerance in action approach to safeguarding.

## **3) The Online Teacher Community is open for sharing of different views.**

We welcome teachers from different countries and the Online Teacher Community is open to all English Language Teaching (ELT) professionals who wish to engage in a constructive discussion about shared experience and challenges and who wish to benefit from teacher development opportunities offered on the platform. We welcome different attitudes and encourage sharing of views. All exchange must be focused on topics related to ELT or education more broadly and must be conducted in a professional manner. All members of the Online Teacher Community are expected to respect other members' right to share their opinions and must not try to impose their views on other members.

It is important to remember to always respect other members' or other individuals' legitimate intellectual property rights. Do not plagiarize work and always give credit to the originators of ideas. Do not promote commercial products on the Online Teacher Community platform.

## **4) Language matters.**

We expect all registered users on the Online Teacher Community to use appropriate language in their forum discussions and live sessions. The use of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and users who engage in such behaviour will have their access terminated and will no longer be able to register on the platform.

This refers to any discriminatory or hostile messages based on person's race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, social or economic class, educational level, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, size, family status, political belief, religion, or mental or physical ability.

Be mindful that members of the Online Teacher Community are (mostly) not native speakers of English so be respectful of different linguistic backgrounds and abilities.

## **5) Being supportive is important.**

Teachers registered on the platform come from different backgrounds and have different levels of experience in ELT. We therefore encourage all members to respectfully engage in discussions and encourage other members to participate, even if they do not have extensive ELT experience – it is through interactions like the ones offered in the Online Teacher Community that teachers grow and develop professionally.

It is therefore expected that all members will treat each other with respect and in a supportive way and will avoid any comments that could offend. We expect all members to treat each other fairly and to refrain from personal remarks and comments.

## **6) Confidentiality is important.**

The Online Teacher Community does not share any information about users with any other parties. In exchanges between teachers through forums and live sessions (meetings and webinars) please refrain from sharing personal information (apart from your names, information about which country you come from) and general information about the context you are teaching in. Please, do not share any personal data about other users or your students. Do not share other members' posts without their permission.

If you have any questions about the Code of Conduct, please, email us at [oneteachercommunity@britishcouncil.org](mailto:oneteachercommunity@britishcouncil.org).