

SCHEDULE 1

Members Code of Conduct

The British Orthodontic Society is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1073464. In consideration for being permitted membership of the British Orthodontic Society ("the Charity"), members agree to abide by the fundamental values that underpin all activities of the Charity and agree to the following:

Support the Charity's Objectives

Members will support and further the objects of the British Orthodontic Society which are: (i) to promote the study and practise of orthodontics, (ii) maintain and improve professional standards in orthodontics, and (iii) to encourage research and education in orthodontics.

Members must, at all times, support the objects and mission of the British Orthodontic Society and act as their guardian and champion.

Disclosure Duties

The Charity requires high standards for its members and membership of the Charity is a badge of professional recognition. All Members (save for retired members) must remain a registrant of the General Dental Council at all times and must notify the Society, in writing and without delay, should the member become the subject of any investigation whether by an employer / former employer, NHS Trust, regulatory body or the police regarding misconduct or negligence. Members must further notify the Charity if they receive any caution, or restrictions are placed on the member's ability to practise dentistry.

Fiduciary Duties

Members agree and accept that (following the Supreme Court judgment in Lehtimäki v Cooper [2020] UKSC 33) members owe fiduciary duties to the Charity. This means the member agrees to use any powers and votes, conferred upon the member by the Charity or by statute, appropriately and will always vote in the interests of the Charity's purposes. Members owe a duty of single-minded loyalty to the Charity's purposes and objects even where these conflict with the member's personal views.

Integrity and Honesty

Members will act with honesty and integrity at all times. These will be the hallmarks of all conduct when dealing with colleagues within the British Orthodontic Society and equally when dealing with individuals and institutions outside of it.

Law, Mission and Policies

Members must familiarise themselves with and act within the Rules and Bye-Laws and Articles of Association of the Charity and abide by the policies and procedures of the Charity.

Conflicts of Interest

Members will always strive to act in the best interests of the Charity as a whole. Members will put the best interests of the Charity, what is best for Charity and its present and future beneficiaries first.

Members must declare any conflict of interest, or any circumstance that might be viewed by others as a conflict of interest, as soon as this arises, to include at committee meetings, Group meetings or in any correspondence or discussions between the member and the Charity.

Members must submit to the judgment of the Board and do as the Board requires regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Personal Reputation

Members must not break the law, act against Charity regulations or act in disregard of organisational policies in relationships with fellow members, trustees, staff, volunteers, members, or contractors.

Members will strive to establish respectful, collegial, and courteous relationships.

External Statements / Social Media Postings

For the purpose of this section, 'Social Media' means internet-based applications which allow users to collaborate or interact by creating and exchanging content, such as social networks or platforms, community sites, blogs, microblogging sites, wikis, web forums, social bookmarking services and user rating services. Examples include Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, X, Bluesky, Tumblr, TikTok, Flickr, SlideShare, Foursquare and Pinterest, the Charity's own Social Media sites and the review areas of e-commerce sites.

For the purpose of this section "External Statement" means any oral, or written statement to include (videos or photographs) = in our publications or journals (such as BOS News), on our website or social media channels, or to the external press (to include but not limited to the dental community) or to any public audience to include but not limited to our training events such as the BOC.

The Charity accepts that members have the right to express their personal opinions and hold their independent viewpoints, but statements made by members externally or on Social Media could have the potential to damage the reputation of the Charity. Where a statement is made by a member individually, on behalf of a Group / Committee or in any capacity which could show a link with the Charity, (whether or not on the Charity's own Social Media sites), the principles below must be observed.

Members agree that when making any External Statement or when posting on Social Media, you will

- at all times comply with the General Dental Council's Social Media guidance (whether or not you are a GDC registrant)
- ensure that any quotes from third party material are accurate

- check that a third-party website permits you to link to it before including a link and ensure that the link makes clear to the user that the link will take the user to the third party's site

Members must not:

- post or make any comment which could identify a patient without consent or act in a manner which could breach patient confidentiality
- post, upload, forward or post a link to chain mail, junk mail, cartoons, jokes or gossip
- promote any unorthodox or controversial orthodontic or dental treatment methods or provide advice which is contradictory to normal scientific thinking or the aims of the Charity without consent of the Board particularly where it may appear that the Charity endorses your viewpoint. The Board will not unreasonably refuse consent to the post or statement.
- express opinions in ways which are (a) inconsistent with upholding professional standards, (b) pose patient safety risks, and (c) have potential to undermine the public's confidence in the dental profession.
- exaggerate your experience, skills, knowledge or qualifications
- fail to declare a conflict of interest or publicise a view as independent without declaring that your point of view will lead to a personal financial gain
- make statements about topics that may be inflammatory, such as politics or religion.
- make any remark which could be classed as harassment, discrimination, or defamation
- use the Charity's Social Media forums to promote yourself, obtain an advantage for you or your practice, advertise your services otherwise than for learning or educational reasons,
- create or exchange or link to abusive, obscene, discriminatory, derogatory, defamatory or pornographic content
- act in a manner towards others that could be regarded as bullying or harassment.
- provide references or recommendations in any way that suggests any endorsement or recommendation by the Charity or
- use the Charity's trademarks, brands or logos or other identifying material without authorisation

Protecting the Organisation's Reputation

Members will not make derogatory public remarks about the Charity which will or could have the potential to lower the Charity's reputation.

When speaking as a private citizen, members must strive to uphold the reputation of the Charity and those who work in it.

Members must respect organisational, Board and individual confidentiality.

Suspension and Expulsion of Members

Members must familiarise themselves with the Charity's Rules and Bye-Laws regarding suspension and expulsion of members.