



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

The Code of Ethics for Social Work (BASW)

'Social workers have an obligation to conduct themselves and make decisions in accordance with our Code of Ethics. This includes working in partnership with people who use our services. We promote human rights and social justice. We develop and maintain our understanding of the value base of our profession throughout our career, its ethical standards and relevant law (PCF 2).

Values and ethics should be integrated into every aspect of placement including specific learning activities. Values and ethics should be a standing item in supervision.

Managing complex **ethical issues, dilemmas** and **conflicts** drawing on the **professional value base** is at the heart of social work. Exploring ethical dilemmas enables the student to analyse links between **legislation** and their own (and others) **practice**, and the relationship of **values to practice**. (Kirwin Maclean Associates Ltd (2014))

Values and ethical principles:

Human Rights - Value

Social work is based on respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other related UN declarations on rights and the conventions derived from those declarations.

Social justice - Value

Social workers have a responsibility to promote social justice, in relation to society generally, and in relation to the people with whom they work.

Professional Integrity - Value

Social workers have a responsibility to respect and uphold the values and principles of the profession and act in a reliable, honest and trustworthy manner.

Ethical Practice Principles

Social workers have a responsibility to apply the professional values and principles set out above to their practice. They should act with integrity and treat people with compassion, empathy and care.

1. Applying each of the principles above with specific details within [The Code of Ethics for Social Work](#) consider how you have or will adhere to each of the principles whilst working with service users on placement.

For instance, **adhering to the Human Rights principle 1: Upholding and promoting human dignity and well-being** - I spoke to my manager when I was concerned that the children were being neglected by their parents. They were not given meals each day, they seemed unhappy and physically unwell. It was agreed that I work with the parents in providing advice on how to cook healthy meals and go to the park with their children.

2. You might want to consider using each value / principle discussed within supervision until they are all covered. This will ensure a comprehensive understanding and application of all values and ethics is considered.
3. You might want to ask for this to be completed as a written exercise instead / in addition.
4. Consider how these specific values and ethics will be demonstrated within Direct Observations. Or, ask the student to reflect on how they demonstrated specific values and ethics (in the Code of Ethics for Social Work) after the direct observation. It may be the case that values and ethics were not adequately adhered to during the direct observation, in which case, further reflection on what they need to do differently will be necessary.

Maclean, S & Caffrey, B (2014) Developing a Practice Learning Curriculum: A Guide for Practice Educators, Kirwin Maclean Associates