

**Last Reviewed: September 2025**

**Next Review Due: September 2026**

### **Ethical trading policy**

Bluestones Group and its subsidiary companies recognise that our commercial activities have the potential to impact on our suppliers and our locality.

As a socially responsible small business our suppliers, local community and customers have a right to expect:

1. All workers involved in the delivery of services provided by Bluestones Group and its subsidiary companies are treated with full consideration to their basic human rights.
2. Bluestones Group and its subsidiary companies act in an ethical manner above and beyond basic legal requirements.
3. We are committed to implementing the principles of the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code.

### **Code of Practice**

This Code of Practice applies to:

1. Staff directly employed by Bluestones Group and its subsidiary companies on temporary, contract or permanent contracts.
2. Staff employed or provided by contractors or employment agencies to work on company premises or to undertake work for or on behalf of Bluestones Group and/or its subsidiary companies.

### **Employment Is Freely Chosen**

1. No forced, bonded or involuntary labour shall be used.
2. Staff are not required to lodge deposits or identity papers with us.
3. Staff are free to leave Bluestones Group and its subsidiary companies after reasonable notice.

### **Working Conditions Are Safe and Hygienic**

1. Adequate steps shall be taken to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, associated with, or occurring in the course of work by minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment.
2. Staff receive health & safety information.
3. Staff have access to toilet facilities and drinking water.
4. The workforce has a published Health & Safety Policy.

### **Child Labour Shall Not Be Used**

1. There shall be no recruitment of child labour.
2. Children or persons under 16 are not employed at any time, day or night.
3. Young persons under 18 shall not be employed at night or in hazardous conditions. Living Wages Are Paid

### **Staff pay rates are equal to or above the national legal minimum standards.**

1. Staff are given information about their employment conditions in respect to wages.
2. No deductions are made from wages as a disciplinary measure and pay slips detailing lawful deductions are provided for each pay period.
3. Staff are given clearly understandable written terms and conditions of employment that details the employment relationship and the respective obligations of the employee and employer.

### **Working Hours Are Not Excessive**

1. Staff are not forced to work in excess of 48 hours per week, a voluntary opt-out agreement is available for those wishing to work in excess of 48 hours per week.

### **No Discrimination Is Practised**

1. There is no discrimination in pay, hiring, compensation, access to training, promotion, and termination of employment or retirement on the grounds of race, nationality, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, union membership or political affiliation.
2. Opportunities for personal and career development are equally available to all employees. No Harsh or Inhumane Treatment Is Allowed

Physical, verbal and sexual threats, abuse, harassment or intimidation is expressly prohibited and grounds for summary dismissal, if proved.