



# Parent Code of Conduct

**Agreed by Governors: Spring 2025**

## **Introduction**

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. For the purpose of this policy, 'parents' will mean parents, carers and guardians. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents to participate fully in the life of our school.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

## **Guidance**

We expect parents and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Follow the Home-School Agreement.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

In addition, we would ask that parents avoid using own mobile phones on site. (see Appendix 1 for more detail)

Also, dogs being brought on to school premises should be carried. Bigger dogs must wait with a person outside the school site and not be directly in front of the school gate.

## **Unacceptable Behaviour**

To support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school cannot tolerate parents and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Playing loud music from mobile phones or other devices whilst on the school grounds.

- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent or student regardless of whether the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Wearing clothing that may be offensive to others, for example with inappropriate pictures and/or wording.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
- Making defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites (See Appendix 2). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Being physically aggressive towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences.)
- Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds. We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy, and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

### **Appendix 1: Use of Mobile Phones**

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication. We therefore ask that parents usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is courteous and appropriate to the school environment. We would ask parents not to use their mobile phones whilst in the school building but to make any urgent calls outside.

Please also remember that your child will want to greet you at the end of the day and share their news, so please try to be 'available' as they come out of their classroom. Mobile phone use is not permitted when parents are waiting in the school office as this is a working environment.

We appreciate that parents will want to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones, but this is on the understanding that parents do not publish images (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own. It is not permissible for parents to take photographs or videos at any other time on school premises.

We would really appreciate it if parents would refrain from using facetime or any form of video calling whilst on site as this is a safeguarding issue potentially for other members of our school community.

## **Appendix 2: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

In some schools, social media websites have been used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The governors consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

If any student or parent of a child being educated in the school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site.

All social network sites have clear rules about the content, which can be posted, on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent or student removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

## **Appendix 3: Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises**

Section 547 of the Education Act 1996

School premises are private property, and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned. School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.