



ST. OSWALD'S
C of E ACADEMY

Parents Code of Conduct Policy

Our Mission Statement:

We aim to provide a high quality of education for all, recognising everyone's value and worth, helping them to achieve their full potential, and sharing the love of God made known through Jesus Christ.

Parent Code of Conduct Policy

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. 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/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers 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, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the Christian ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- 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 in order 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 as soon as possible.
- Avoid using staff members as threats to admonish their children's behaviour
- Respect that members of staff have numerous responsibilities and commitments both inside and outside of school and may not be able to immediately address concerns raised, unless these are of a safeguarding manner, in which case it may be delegated to the relevant people who can respond immediately.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers 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 and entering or shouting into a classroom at the beginning or end of the day to gain the attention of staff or children. Staff must be able to ensure that their full attention is on the safe entry and exit of all children at this time, without distraction. Any non-urgent messages, including who may be collecting a child that day, must be directed through the office, ideally via email, to avoid any miscommunication.

- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper anywhere on school premises or outside where a staff member is representing the school or is in charge of children from the school. This includes the expectation that visitors to the premises use inclusive language and avoid any comments relating to negative portrayal or discrimination against any of the legally protected characteristics as outlined below:
 - Age
 - Gender or gender reassignment
 - Marital status
 - Pregnancy and maternity leave
 - Disability including physical, mental and neurodiversity in all of its forms
 - Race including colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origin
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex

Visitors and parents must also not engage in any discussions or use vocabulary that may cause safeguarding concerns, such as the use of 'banter' that could fall within the category of sexual harassment and cause offense or discomfort.

Parents and visitors not adhering to the conditions above within school activities or on school grounds will be asked to leave immediately, and may not be allowed to attend future school events or be allowed to access school premises for any purpose other than pick up or drop off of children. Serious breaches may result in a total ban from school premises.

- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence, or whether the threat is directed at the member of staff or implicitly made against a member of staff to another employee or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. (See below). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property, or being under the influence of the effects of any drug that has been consumed or ingested before entering the school premises – any such incidents will be reported to the police and will result in a ban from entering school grounds.

- Dogs being brought on to school premises, to include them being at or near the school gates or on the school drive, as pick up and drop off times are very busy and are potential stress points for all dogs, including family pets, which may result in accidental injury or harm to children or adults.

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head Teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. 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 Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the school is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, including WhatsApp and other texting-based platforms, 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/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately and any child who posts such material may find that they are not eligible to attend trips, visits or other events run by school as a result of their actions. It should be noted that if an adult or child is a member of a group chat or page where defamatory comments are being made without removing themselves, they are legally considered as willing participants in the comments made, and may be dealt with accordingly.

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.

We expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children, or attending any school event that may result in discussion, aware of this policy, but will hold the individual persons responsible for their actions, in accordance with the guidelines.

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 and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.