

St Wilfrid's Primary School Parental Code of Conduct

Introduction

At St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School, we firmly believe that to achieve the best outcomes for our children, the relationship between home and school, based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect, is integral.

To support this aim, this policy outlines the code of conduct expected of parents and carers to help realise this belief.

Aims of the Policy

This policy outlines ideal parent / carer conduct, and that which is unacceptable, together with actions (as an appendices) that might be taken in the case of inappropriate conduct.

Note: Throughout this policy, we refer to 'parents' as a term including carers. Parents who make arrangements for other adults to accompany children to and from school, are requested to make those other adults aware of this policy

Ideal Conduct by Parents and Carers

In addition to the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we encourage parents to:

- Work together with teachers and other staff for the benefit of our children.
- Approach school staff for help to resolve any issues of concern. This should be done through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or member of staff, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. See our concerns and complaints policy for more information (available on the school website or from the school office)
- Treat every member of the community with respect, thereby setting an appropriate example to pupils.
- Support their child's education where possible, for example by attending parents' evenings, and supporting and encouraging the completion of homework activities.
- Park legally and with consideration for the safety of all children, parents and local people.
- Not post photographs of children other than their own, taken at school events, on social media.

Unacceptable Conduct by Parents and Carers

Thankfully, unacceptable and inappropriate conduct by parents and carers is extremely rare. When it does occur, the school will take the appropriate action to deal with such conduct and may seek legal advice where necessary in order to protect the interests of the school community.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, St Wilfrid's Primary and Nursery School does not tolerate:

- Using loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing, making malicious comments or displaying temper on school premises.
- Disruptive behaviour, including intimidation, harassment or racist conduct, which interferes or threatens to interfere with, the operation of a classroom, office or any

other area of the school grounds. This also applies to after school activities and team matches.

- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text / voicemail / phone messages or other written communication, including the use of social media platforms.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils / parents / staff / governors at the school on Facebook, Wattaspp or other social media sites.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards your own child.
(Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on or adjacent to school premises.
(Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Dogs being brought on to school premises – even if carried (other than assistance dogs).

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social Media

Social media platforms are being used increasingly to post negative and defamatory comments about schools, head teachers, school staff, and other parents/pupils. St Wilfrid's Primary School considers the use of social media platforms in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the wider school community.

Any concerns parents / carers may have should be made through the appropriate channels, so they can be dealt with fairly and effectively for all concerned.

Where parents / carers do post comments it considers defamatory or inappropriate, the school will investigate such posts, and, if appropriate, ask for the post to be removed.

The school will consider reporting such posts to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of any site, and will consider taking legal action and reporting such posts to the police where necessary.

Examples of online activity considered inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff

Appendix 1 – dealing with inappropriate conduct by parents / carers.

Dealing with Unacceptable Conduct

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 1997 for any person (including a parent/carer), to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

The school may take the following actions:

Stage 1 - Verbal Warning

The Head Teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team will speak to the alleged perpetrator(s) privately. It will be put to them that such behaviour is unacceptable and an assurance will be sought that such behaviour / incident will not be repeated. It will be stressed on this occasion that any repetition will result in further more serious action being taken. If the Head Teacher has been subject to abuse, this will be done by the Chair of Governors (or another appointed governor).

Step 2 - Written Warning

If a second incident occurs involving the same person(s), the Head Teacher will write to them informing them once again that this conduct is unacceptable. As for Step 1, if the Head Teacher has been subject to abuse this will be done by the Chair or Governors or other appointed governor. Please note that any incidents of violent conduct will immediately proceed to stage 5. At any stage, the school may report serious incidents of abusive and threatening behaviour to the Local Authority. Any act of actual or threatened violence will be referred to the police immediately.

Stage 3 - Final Written Warning

If a third incident occurs involving the same person or persons, the Chair of Governors or other appointed independent governor, will write to the adult(s) giving a final warning that this abusive and threatening behaviour is unacceptable, and that a repetition of this conduct will leave the governors no option but to take further action.

Stage 4 - Exclusion from School Premises

If such an incident recurs or if an initial incident is considered serious enough, the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors, (or other appointed governor), may enforce an exclusion from school premises.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents / carers would need to make alternative arrangements for getting children to and from school.

All parents, even if excluded from school premises, are not excluded from the rights to access to school and have a right to seek an appointment to speak to school staff about their child's educational progress.

Stage 5 - Removal by Police

If, following a decision to exclude a person from the school premises, that person persists in entering school premises, they may be removed by the police as a trespasser under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 and charged with an offence under the Public Order Act 1986.

Policy Review

This policy was written in consultation with governors and staff in September 2021 and will be reviewed in September 2023.