



Parents Code of Conduct July 2017

At Little Sutton Primary School 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:

- follow the School's safeguarding procedures, ensure that pupils are protected from harm and **immediately** report anything that they believe is putting children at risk;
- observe school rules, protocol and follow the direction given by school staff at all times;
- treat the school environment and property with respect.
- take responsibility for their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour;
- respect the caring 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 their 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 about their behaviour.

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.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- any aggressive or threatening behaviour or that which leads to actual bodily harm;
- 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 Appendix 1). 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. All email enquiries must be sent to enquiry@littlesu.bham.sch.uk and not to specific members of staff.
- 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).
- any behaviour that discriminates on the basis of age, race, sex, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity;
- Smoking / vaping or taking drugs whilst on school property. Alcohol should not be consumed on school property unless this is part of a school organised event.
- Animals, including dogs, being brought on to school premises.

This list is not exhaustive and some behaviour not listed above may be considered unacceptable by the Head Teacher / School Governors and will be dealt with under this code of conduct.

What will happen if there is unacceptable behaviour / conduct?

- Please note that inappropriate, disruptive or threatening behaviour towards the school that takes place off the school site might also be considered unacceptable. This includes inappropriate messaging in all forms as well as defamatory, abusive and or insulting comments made about the school, its pupils, parents and staff on social media. These may be reported to the appropriate bodies, including legal teams and

the police. The school takes all forms of cyber bullying seriously and any incidents are dealt with and recorded as a serious incident.

- Please be aware of the **appropriate way to express your concerns** via the school's Complaints Policy available on our website and understand that social media is never a helpful vehicle.
- School premises are private property and people who come on the site will generally have the permission of the school to do so.
- In circumstances where the School believes that an individual's conduct has fallen short of the expectations referred to above and is unacceptable, then it has the power in common law to bar that individual from the premises.
- In **all** cases the facts will be established before responding to the unacceptable conduct.
- In **most** cases the School will seek the advice of the Local Authority before responding to the unacceptable conduct.
- In **most** cases the School will attempt to remedy the situation by initiating a meeting/dialogue with the individual concerned to raise its concerns and gain reassurance that the conduct will not be repeated.
- In **some** cases the School, or the Local Authority acting on behalf of the School, will write to the individual concerned to make it clear that their conduct is unacceptable and warn them that further action will be taken if it is repeated, which may result in the individual being barred from the school premises. The individual concerned is entitled to make representations to the School's Governing Board about the letter and the warning given.
- In **some** (extreme) cases the School, or the Local Authority acting on behalf of the School, will write to the individual concerned informing them that as a result of their unacceptable conduct they have been barred from the school premises for a temporary period that is specified in the letter and is subject to review. This means that individual has no lawful authority to be on the school premises during the period in question and will be removed if they attempt to do so. Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a person who is on school premises without lawful authority to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. In such circumstances it is likely that the barring will be with immediate effect however the individual concerned will be given the opportunity to respond before it is confirmed. The individual concerned is also entitled to make representations to the School's Governing Board over the decision to bar them and the reasons given.

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.

Agreed by Governors 17th July 2017

Due for review June 2019