



Fostering strong school communities – expectations for adults

We are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents, carers and other adult visitors. Nurturing these relationships is a high priority- we expect our staff to be welcoming, helpful and reasonable and to work to our agreed school procedures. We are important role models for our children so we need all the adults who visit our schools to play their part in creating an open, responsible and respectful culture by:

- Respecting the caring ethos of our school.
- Demonstrating that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Approaching the school to help resolve any issues of concern. We cannot address issues if they are not referred to us in the appropriate ways; by speaking to the class teacher, the Head of School, Executive Headteacher etc. If you are unsure what to do then a good starting place is the school office. We want to deal with concerns fairly, appropriately and effectively - our complaints policy is available on the website or from the school office.

Parents and carers should also:

- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- 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.

Children and adults deserve a peaceful and safe school community which means that the following are not acceptable:

- Disruptive or threatening behaviour
- Using loud/ or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive, threatening or unreasonable emails 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).



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- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child - please ask school staff to help if there is a problem.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs - except where alcohol is served as part of an organised school function.

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 ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

We understand that dogs are a popular family pet for many of our families but health and safety considerations within schools mean that dogs (other than 'helping' dogs) should not be brought onto the school premises.

Appendix 1 - Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/ pupils. The governing body considers 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 because we cannot address issues if they are not referred to us in the appropriate ways. We want to deal with concerns fairly, appropriately and effectively.

In the event that any pupil* or parent/carer of a child/ren 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 their sites 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.

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 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.

***Please note - the legal age limit for a child to have a Facebook/social media account is 13.**