





## Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and St Nicholas CE Schools

### Parent Code of Conduct

Date policy last reviewed: July 2024

Signed by:

S Taylor

July 2024

Headteacher

Date:

C Burgess

July 2024

Chair of governors

Date:

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## **Statement of intent**

At the Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and St Nicholas CE Schools, we strive to build a strong relationship with parents to help create a stimulating learning environment that continues from school to home, providing all pupils with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

To create a welcoming and safe learning environment, the school implements a specifically designed set of rules regarding behaviour and conduct which parents are expected to act in accordance with.

All staff members have the right to work without fear of violence or abuse; therefore, physical attacks, threatening behaviour, and abusive or insulting language towards staff members, governors, visitors, pupils or other parents may result in individuals being removed from the premises.

This document outlines the manner in which parents are expected to act whilst on the school premises, as well as detailing the type of behaviour that will not be tolerated.

## **1. Legal framework**

This document has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2011
- Education Act 1996
- Children Act 2004

This document has due regard to statutory and best practice guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 'Keeping children safe in education (2021) DfE (2018) 'Controlling access to the school premises'

This document operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Photography Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Smoke-free Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy

## **2. Expectations**

Our school expects parents to act in accordance with this code of conduct at all times in person and online:

1. Support and reflect the school's ethos and values through their behaviour.
2. Set a good example to pupils through their behaviour and the way they interact with staff, pupils and other adults.
3. Work together with staff for the benefit of their child.
4. Treat all governors, staff members, pupils, other parents and any other individuals connected to the school with dignity and respect.
5. Work with staff members to resolve any issues of concern.
6. Where appropriate, clarify their child's version of events with the school to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
7. Correct their child's behaviour appropriately, particularly on the school grounds where it could otherwise lead to conflict or aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
8. Respect the school's property and environment by keeping it clean and tidy.

9. Follow the school's parking rules and procedures for dropping-off and collecting pupils from school.

### **School policies and procedures**

Parents are required to act in accordance with all relevant school policies and procedures at all times including, but not limited to, the following:

- Photography Policy
- Smoke-free Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Social Media Policy

Parents can request copies of all relevant policies and procedures from the school office.

### **3. Inappropriate behaviour**

The school takes instances of inappropriate behaviour very seriously and will not tolerate any circumstances that may make pupils, staff members and other members of the school community feel threatened.

Parental behaviour that the school does not tolerate includes the following:

- Using foul, abusive or offensive language
- Raising voices inappropriately at another individual
- Making racist or sexual comments
- Using aggressive hand gestures, e.g. raising fists and fingers
- Discriminating against any member of the school community, including pupils, staff, governors and other parents
- Bullying, harassment or intimidation, including online.
- Sending abusive or threatening messages, emails or other communications to any member of the school community
- Trespassing on school property without prior permission or implied licence
- Causing intentional damage to school property
- Breaching the school's security procedures
- Using physical violence on the school premises or on a member of the school community, e.g. hitting, slapping, punching, kicking and pushing
- Physically intimidating an individual
- Partaking in unnecessary physical contact with an individual
- Writing or posting abusive, offensive or defamatory comments about an individual or the school, including on social media
- Posting content on social media that is damaging to the school's reputation
- Sending staff aggressive emails or other communications

- Approaching another parent or pupil to discuss or reprimand them because of an issue between pupils
- Threatening any member of the school community in any way
- Taking photographs or videos on the school premises without permission from the school

#### **4. Managing inappropriate behaviour**

If a parent/carer is behaving inappropriately relating to school matters, or on the school site, the staff have been advised to not engage and report this behaviour to the headteacher immediately, who will decide on the course of action to take.

When a parent/carer has behaved inappropriately, they will be invited to a meeting with the headteacher and governors to discuss their behaviour and to attempt to resolve the issue. Where this initial meeting is not sufficient to resolve the issue, the headteacher and governors, in collaboration with relevant agencies, will consider what further action may be required. This action, depending on the situation, could include the following:

- Restricting the parent's channels of communication to the school, e.g. no longer allowing the parent to send emails or meet with staff members directly
- Reporting content the parent has posted online to the relevant online platform
- Barring the parent from the school premises
- Contacting the police
- Seeking legal redress through the courts
- Referring the case to children's social care, where the behaviour indicates that the parent poses a risk to children

Any child protection and safeguarding concerns will be addressed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school reserves the right to escort anyone off the premises who is displaying aggressive or disruptive behaviour. The police may be contacted to provide advice on managing an incident or to assist in the removal of an individual from the premises, where necessary.

The police will be contacted where a parent is being violent or has committed assault, or where the event has caused harm to an individual.

If a parent has been previously barred from the premises, or has exceeded their implied access to the premises and is causing a disturbance, the police will be contacted to remove them.

If a parent persistently displays unacceptable and inappropriate behaviour, this may result in them being barred from the school premises, in line with the section below.

## **5. Barring from the school premises**

The school has the right to bar a parent from the premises to keep the school community safe. If a parent is displaying inappropriate or concerning behaviour, they will be asked to leave the school premises. Behaviour that could result in a parent being asked to leave the premises includes aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language that is a risk to staff or pupils, or behaviour that is making staff or pupils feel threatened.

If a parent persistently or consistently behaves inappropriately on the school site, or there is a one-off incident of extremely inappropriate behaviour, the school reserves the right to bar this individual from the school site.

The school will either:

- Bar the parent temporarily, until the parent has had the opportunity to formally present their side.
- Inform the parent that they intend to bar them and invite them to present their side.

The headteacher will send a letter to the parent, informing them of the following information:

- Why they have been temporarily barred or face a bar
- The nature of the bar, i.e. if they are temporarily barred pending their representation or if they must present their side before the decision to bar can be made
- That they have the right to formally express their views on the decision to bar in writing to the chair of governors within 10 working days

The headteacher's decision to bar the parent will be reviewed by the chair of governors.

The chair of governors will take account of any representations made by the parent and decide whether to confirm or lift the bar. The parent will be notified in writing of the decision to uphold or lift the bar.

If the decision is confirmed, the parent will be notified in writing, explaining:

- How long the bar will be in place.
- When the decision will be reviewed.

Decisions to bar will be reviewed at the end of the agreed timescale, in line with the process outlined above. Following a review, the bar may be lifted or, if there are grounds for continued concern regarding the parent's conduct, it may be extended.

Once the appeal process has been completed, parents that remain barred may be able to apply to the Civil Courts. If a parent wishes to exercise this option, they should seek independent legal advice.

## **6. Monitoring and review**



This document will be reviewed on a three yearly basis by the headteacher and any changes made will be communicated to all parents and staff at the school.

The next scheduled review date for this document is July 2027 .

All parents will be provided with a copy of this code of conduct upon their child's attendance at the school, and are required to familiarise themselves with the procedures and guidelines outlined.

## Parent Code of Conduct Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name), parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child), declare that I have received, read and understood the terms and conditions of this code of conduct.

I understand my obligations under this code of conduct and agree to comply fully with them. I will ensure that my conduct does not breach this code in any way, including not:

- Being abusive or threatening to any member of the school community.
- Behaving inappropriately or aggressively in any way.
- Being discriminatory towards any member of the school community.
- Trespassing on the school property.
- Sending inappropriate, abusive or aggressive messages to school staff.
- Requesting to 'follow' or 'friend' school staff on social media.
- Writing or posting abusive, offensive or defamatory comments about an individual or the school, including on social media

Please return this slip to the school office as soon as possible.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_