KINGSDOWN SCHOOL

Parent Code of Conduct

Approved by:	Impact Committee	**Date:** 30th November 2021
Last reviewed on:	November 2019	
Next review due by:	November 2023	

Contents

Introduction 1

Guidance 2

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site 3

Procedure 4

Conclusion 4

Policy Information and Review 5

Policy Review Dates 5

Ratification by Governing Body 5

Introduction

Rationale

At Kingsdown School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents/carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents/carers, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents/carers 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 expected conduct whilst on the premises. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

It is an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including parents/carers) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist the school in removing a parent/carer but local authorities and governing bodies may also authorise the removal of a person if they have reasonable cause to believe that the person is causing a nuisance or disturbance.

The school expects its staff to behave professionally in these situations and attempt to diffuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all staff have the right to work without fear or violence and abuse and the right in extreme cases, of appropriate self-defence.

The school expects parents/carers and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards school staff.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents/carers 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 our child's behaviour where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues or concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's 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.

- 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.

- 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/parents/carers/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. 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.

- 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 or using smoking substitutes and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.

- Dogs being brought on to school premises other than assistance dogs.

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints (please see complaints policy) against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/carers/pupils. The Governors of Kingsdown School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unhelpful and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

We ask parents and carers to raise any concerns you may have through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher 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 children being educated in Kingsdown School 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 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.

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 cyberbullying and the use by one child or a parent/carer 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.

Procedure

When a parent/carer or member of the public behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of school staff the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary the school's complaints procedure should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent/carer or other adult may be banned by the head teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

Prior to being banned the following steps will be taken:

1. The adult will be warned, in writing, that s/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached eg that an injunction may follow.
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the police will be included.
3. The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for students being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

We reserve the right to curtail meetings/telecoms in the event of any behaviour that contravenes this policy.

We reserve the right to ask parents/carers to leave the premises in the event of any behaviour that contravenes this policy.

Conclusion

Students learn best when there is a positive partnership between home and school and whilst every effort is made to work with parents, this will only be possible where parents behave in an acceptable way.

Where a parent/carer's behaviour is either unacceptable or serious and breaches our policy or health and safety legislation.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

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.

Policy Information and Review

Academic year	Designated Lead Person (S)	Nominated Governor	Chair of Governors
2019-20	Ms S M Magenty		Mrs L Scragg

Policy Review Dates

Review Date	Changes Made	By Whom
September 2018	Policy updated	Ms S M Magenty
September 2019	No change	Ms S M Magenty
September 2021	No change	Ms S M Magenty

Ratification by Governing Body

Academic Year	Date of Ratification	Chair of Governors
2021- 22	13th January 2021	Mrs L Scragg

Policy signed by		Policy signed by	
	Mrs Leigh Bennett Role: Headteacher		Mrs L Scragg Role: Chair of Governors
Date:	16/12/21	Date:	16.12.21