



Barcroft Primary School

Parental Conduct Policy

## Policy Statement.

The governing body of Barcroft Primary School encourages close links with parents, carers and the community. It believes that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school. However, on the rare occasions when a negative attitude towards the school is expressed, this can result in aggression, verbal and/or physical abuse towards members of staff or the wider school community.

The governing body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence or abuse.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

## Introduction.

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/ carers will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip the children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/ carers to participate fully in school life.

## Purpose and Intent

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:**

- Respect the caring ethos and values 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 or visitor'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's behaviour
- Use the appropriate channels to make a complaint or raise a concern about the school, in line with the school's complaints procedure
- Make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy

**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 at 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 student regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening emails or text/ voicemail/ phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students, parents or staff on Facebook or other social media sites
- 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 that child towards their own child (such action may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property
- Dogs being brought on to the premises

Should any of the above behaviour occur, the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

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.

## Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff and in some cases other parents/ students. The Governors consider 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. Any concerns you may have must be raised through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or other senior leader, or the Chair of Governors. This is so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any student or parent/ carer is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will have to 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 and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/ carer or student 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 a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate comments. We will deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

## Conclusion

The Local Authority itself may take action where behaviour is unacceptable or there are serious breaches of our home-school agreement or of this code of conduct policy or of health and safety legislation. In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Local Authority's education, health and safety legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

