

St. John's Mosley Common C.E. Primary School

Policy on Behaviour of Parents (including Carers) and Visitors to Our School



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Reviewed September 2017

Statement of Principles

At St. John's Mosley Common C.E. 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 vast majority of parents/carers and others visiting our school are supportive and keen to work with us; however, on the rare occasions when negativity towards the school or another parent is expressed, this can result in aggression, verbal and /or physical abuse towards members of school staff, other parents 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.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff and towards each other on the playground and school premises.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents/carers and visitors to our school about expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

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

- Respect the 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 appropriately own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help you resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents/carers and visitors exhibiting any of the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, playground, office area or any other area of the school grounds and in particular in front of children
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper to staff, parents, children and in front of children
- Threaten violence towards member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or child, this may constitute a criminal offence
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamation of the school's or staff's character on Facebook or other social media sites
- 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 their actions 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs
- Spitting or using aggressive hand gestures
- Cycling on school premises
- Dogs being brought on to school premises

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour. Whilst the use of such behaviour is unacceptable in all circumstances, the school is particularly concerned to protect its children from being exposed to such behaviour (whether or not it is directed at them).

Parental/Visitor Access to the School Premises

Parents/carers (and those with parental responsibility), plus visitors, are granted what is known as "limited licence" to visit the grounds and buildings of a school. Where there are serious concerns regarding the conduct of a parent/visitor, and possible staff/student safety, the Headteacher and Governors can:

- Initiate a meeting/dialogue with the individual
- Write to the visitor, describing their misconduct, explaining its impact on the school and stating its unacceptability
- Vary the persons "licence", say, through the addition of conditions
- Warn of the possibility of a "ban" (i.e. withdrawal of their licence) if the misconduct is repeated
- Impose a ban with a review after a fixed period
- Impose a ban without review

Procedure to be followed

If a parent/carer/visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Headteacher, Governors and/or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed by the parent if they are unsatisfied with the outcome of any such investigation.

Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggressive or intimidating behaviour continues, or where the circumstances otherwise require it, a parent/carer or visitor may be banned by the Headteacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be given a warning, in writing, that he/she has breached the schools code of conduct of behaviour and should there be another breach, a ban will be imposed
2. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that he/she is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that police involvement or an injunction may follow
3. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter will be reported to the local police
4. The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban
5. As appropriate, arrangements for meetings at school regarding students, and arrangements for students being delivered to and collected from the school will be clarified

Conclusion

In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the school's solicitors, and/or the Local Authority if necessary, to ensure fairness and consistency.