

Parent Code Of Conduct



Approved by:

The Full Governing
Body

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Signed

M Greenwood

Howard Park Community School

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Parent Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the Parents, Carers, Visitors and Howard Park Community School

As a partnership, we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education.

Purpose And Scope

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of all parents, carers and visitors connected to our school. It aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seek parental agreement to these expectations. The code of conduct also sets out the actions the school can take, should this code be ignored or where breaches occur. We are committed to constructively resolving difficulties, through an open and positive dialogue. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact the Headteacher, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website, or a copy can be requested from the school office.

At Howard Park Community School, we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times
- Promote our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Care and Compassion.

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

Our Expectations Of Parents And Carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils and students

- Understand that both teacher and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Maintain reasonable expectations for staff response to general communications
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- 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 their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach your child's class teacher in the first instance to help resolve any issues of concern, following up if an appropriate response has not been received.

Behaviour That Will Not Be Tolerated

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operations or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer, or child
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other social media sites
- The use of physical, verbal, or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your child on school premises
- Approaching someone else's child to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have further consequences) - please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises., (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- If during meetings, staff members feel that parents/carers or visitors are intimidating or rude, then subsequent meetings will only be held with a Senior Leader present

Breaching The Code Of Conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will:

- Send a warning letter to the parent about their behaviour with the possibility of being banned from school premises
- Invite the parent in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- If the behaviour continues we can bar someone from our school premises if we feel that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils. It's enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened
- Tell an individual that they've been barred or they intend to bar them, in writing. Letters will be signed by the Headteacher, though in some cases the local authority may issue the letter.
- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff, or governor in the school. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyberbullying
- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police.
- In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will contact the local authority legal team

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the school may take any of the following actions:

- Ending a meeting if this behaviour is displayed
- Not replying to communications that are offensive, abusive or derogatory
- Insist that communication with the school is through one member of staff only
- Ban the adult from entering the school grounds

Inappropriate Use Of Social Media

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools or to share inappropriate information, e.g. naming children involved in incidences, sharing confidential information regarding an aspect of school life, making allegations or accusations or sharing false news. Howard Park Community School considers the use of social media websites or Apps 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 made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the leadership team or the Headteacher, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Howard Park Community School is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites or apps, 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 content 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 a 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.

We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy, and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. We will always respond to an incident proportionally. The final decision on how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher.

Review Arrangements

The Governing Body reviews this policy every three years. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this if the Government, or the LA, introduces new regulations, or receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.