

Parent Code Of Conduct



Approved by: The Full Governing Body

Date: Sept 26

Signed

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 your child's teacher or 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.

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 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
- Posting photographs of staff including photographs of staff made available on school websites via social media, forums ,other website or any publicly accessible medium.

Inappropriate Use of Social Networking Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and, in some cases, other parents or pupils. The Department for Education, Government, and Governors of this school consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels — by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher, or the Chair of Governors — where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned

Parental Use of WhatsApp

We understand that many parents use WhatsApp or similar messaging apps to communicate with one another. While we support positive and constructive communication between parents, we ask that WhatsApp groups are used respectfully and responsibly

- Please avoid using WhatsApp to discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or other children
- If you have a concern, contact the school directly via the appropriate channels
- Do not use WhatsApp to share unverified information or spread negativity
- Respect the privacy of others, including refraining from naming children or sharing sensitive incidents

WhatsApp groups should never be used as a platform for complaints, criticisms or debates that could be divisive or inflammatory. Concerns raised in these forums should be should be redirected through school communication channels so they can be resolved constructively.

Libelous or Defamatory Posts

In the event that any parent/carer or pupil 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 what content can be posted and provide mechanisms to report content that breaches these terms. The school also expects that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

Cyber Bullying

We take the use of cyberbullying very seriously, whether by a child or a parent, to publicly humiliate another individual by inappropriate social media entry. This will be treated as a serious incident of school bullying. The school will also consider its legal options to deal with any misuse of social networking and other sites.

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

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.

This policy was produced in line with DFE guidance:

[Controlling access to school premises - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/controlling-access-to-school-premises)

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.

Appendix 1 – Model Letters

Initial Warning Letter From Headteacher

Dear

Re: Name of relevant School

I am writing to you in regard to your behaviour on the schools premises on [insert date].

You behaved in an [uncooperative/disruptive manner] by, [insert details of alleged behaviour]

Your behaviour caused alarm and distress to those at which it was directed and to other teachers and pupils who witnessed it.

I and the Local Education Authority take a very serious view of such behaviour and will neither accept nor tolerate it.

Accordingly, I must advise you that should you behave in such a manner again whilst on school premises; I will not hesitate in imposing a ban on your attending at the school for any reason whatsoever. I sincerely hope that further action does not become necessary.

Should you wish to make any representations on the content of this letter, please address them to me in writing at the above address.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely

Mr Pickles

Headteacher