



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Date of Review: Autumn 2020

Committee Responsible: Foundation Committee

Chair of Committee: Reverend Keith Johnson



Parents Code of Conduct Policy

1. At Great Kingshill CE Combined School we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents and carers. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves a close partnership between parents, class teachers and the wider school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship that supports and equips children with the necessary skills to continue to develop and grow ready for the challenges of adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.
2. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about our expectations of conduct and to ensure that we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.
3. **We expect parents, carers and visitors to:**
 - Respect the caring ethos of our school and out school values
 - 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 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
 - Respect the rights of other parents to confidentiality regarding their children's education
 - Respect the decisions of the school and understand that operational decisions are not open to debate, gossip or discussion
 - Follow the safeguarding guidance and respect the boundaries and rules put in place

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 sporting team matches
- Using offensive or 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/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. (See Appendix 1)
- 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 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 and consumption of alcohol or drugs whilst on school property
- Dogs being brought on to school premises
- Threatening and abusive conversations of a prolonged nature

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises 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. We thank you for your continuing support of the school. We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases, other parents/pupils. The Governors of Great Kingshill CE Combined School considers 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 made 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.

All parties are reminded that social media platforms are not the place to post speculative, half truth or factually inaccurate information, persons found to be doing so will be dealt with using the appropriate channels.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in Great Kingshill CE Combined 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 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.

The use of 'chat groups' such as Whatsapp must not be used to gossip, speculate and canvas opinions on school operational decisions or to discuss matters relating to individual children. The school will not engage with collective concerns that have been galvanised through Whatsapp groups. Should parents wish to raise concerns they need to do so via the channels in place.

Other policies to be read in conjunction with this policy:

Dealing with disruptive visitors

Home school agreement