



Parent Code of Conduct

Spring Term 2024

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Governing committee responsible:	Curriculum and Standards Committee		
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Staff responsible:	Headteacher	Date produced:	Feb 2023

Vision and Values

Here at Clarborough, we have many minds but one mission:
Be the best you can be!

The importance of health, wellbeing, family and a love of learning permeate through our golden rule: We look after ourselves, others, our school and our planet.

Our staff and governors will work together to ensure that all those in our school community support our values:

Clarborough values respect,

resilience,

learning.

These values will ensure our pupils are successful learners, safe and nurtured, included and respected, effective contributors, active and healthy, confident citizens who are globally aware and the best they can be!

Parent Code of Conduct for Clarborough Primary School Spring 2024

Contents

Introduction..... 3

Purpose and Scope 3

Guidance 3

Appendix 1: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site 6

Appendix 2: Model letters..... 7

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 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.

Purpose and Scope

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 and respect.

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 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.

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 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.
- Making allegations which turn out to be vexatious or malicious
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication online through social networking sites
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. (See Appendix 1). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels, in accordance with the published Complaints Procedure, by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- 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 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 other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

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 and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

The school's approach to dealing with incidents

If a parent/carer/visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Headteacher or appropriate senior staff will assess the level of risk before deciding on a future course of action. The course of action will be reasonable and commensurate with the assessed level of risk.

Should any member of staff encounter any such behaviour they should:

- Speak calmly
- Be assertive but not aggressive
- Polite but firm
- Seek assistance where needed
- Politely terminate the conversation where needed
- Ask the individual to leave the premises if needed and outline that the police will be called if
- they refuse.

Recording of Incidents

Staff/students subject to abuse and witnesses will make written statements about incident(s) which will be kept in a file with subsequent letters. This file will be kept by the Headteacher.

Depending on an assessment of the risk of retaliation to witnesses or individuals, statements made by adults may be made available to the parent if they request it. The Headteacher shall make the final decision in respect of the sharing of documentation and staff would be will be advised and supported accordingly.

Risk Assessment

The Headteacher will carry out a risk assessment in order to help make a decision about the level of response. In all cases the response will be reasonable and proportionate. The Headteacher will consider the following questions:

- What form did the abuse take?
- What evidence is there?
- What do witnesses say happened?
- Are there previous incidents to take into consideration?
- Do members of staff/students feel intimidated by the parent's behaviour?
- Is there any evidence of provocation?
- How high is the assessed risk that this will be repeated or there will be retaliation at the school's action? (low, medium, high).

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/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 made through the appropriate channels in accordance with the published Complaints Procedure 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.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the 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 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/carer 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 would expect that parents/carers would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Appendix 2: Model letters

Dear [parent]

I have received a report about your conduct on (enter date and time).

[Add summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, students, other parents.]

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school. I must inform you that the Academy will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff and students.

I am therefore informing you that should the school staff have any further concerns about your behaviour formal procedures will be followed.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Dear [parent]

I have received a report about your conduct on (enter date and time).

[Add summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, students, other parents.]

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school. I must inform you that the Academy will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff and students.

The Headteacher has already contacted you on . On the advice of the Headteacher, I am therefore informing you that should the school staff have any further concerns about your behaviour, you will be asked not to enter the premises and you could be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governors

Dear [parent]

I have received a report from the Headteacher about your conduct on (enter date and time). [Add summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, students, other parents.]

I must inform you that the school will not tolerate conduct of this nature on its premises and will act to defend its staff and students. On the advice of the Headteacher, I am therefore instructing that (for a temporary period) you are not to reappear on the premises of the school. If you do not comply with this instruction I shall arrange for you to be removed from the premises and prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises takes immediate effect. However, I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before I do so, I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received from the Headteacher. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. To enable me to take a decision on this matter at an early point, you are asked to send me any written comments you wish to make by (state date ten working days from the date of letter).

If on receipt of your comments I consider that my decision should be confirmed, you will be supplied with details of how to pursue a review of the circumstances of your case.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Governors