



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

Horspath C of E Primary School values and supports all of its members as individuals. It is a happy, welcoming and safe environment which promotes learning and self-confidence.

We are a church school:

- Where children from all cultures and faiths thrive, learning skills and behaviours that will guide them their whole lives.
- That underpins teaching, learning and daily school life with the Christian values of forgiveness, respect for others, truth and a sense of accountability.
- Where all children from every background have the very best that the school community can give them so that they are challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.
- A school that encourages work and play across the age range so that children

At Horspath CofE School we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the parent body, staff, governors, parents and carers alike all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership process between all these parties.

In working as a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of such relationships to equip all of our children with the necessary skills for adulthood.

We understand that everyday frustrations can lead to misunderstandings. As a school we will always try to ensure that the relationship between the school and parents and carers is as positive as possible for the benefit of the pupils.

For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

Our school already has a code of conduct for staff which requires them to act and speak with courtesy and respect to all adults and children. The code of conduct for parents exists to ensure that our staff and others connected to the school are also treated with courtesy and respect.

This code aims to make clear the sort of behaviour that the school will not tolerate and asks for parents to sign up to these expectations. The policy also sets out the actions the school could take if the code were to be broken.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- 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 sites
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of 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, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises. (other than guide dogs)

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of the school breaking this code then proportionate action will be taken as follows:

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially a criminal matter, the concerns will be referred to Thames Valley Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff member, other parent 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 insulting social media posts or any form of social media cyber bullying.

In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander then the school will refer the matter to the County Council's Legal Team for further action.

In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter to the parent/carer with an invitation to a meeting.

If the parent/carer refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn them that if they continue their actions they may be banned from the school premises. If, after this warning has been given, the behaviour continues then the parent/carer will be informed that a ban is now in place.

Note: (1) a ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

(2) Site bans will normally be time limited in the first instance.

Complaints

This code of conduct does not prevent parent/carers from raising a legitimate complaint in an appropriate fashion.

In most cases we hope that all complaints and concerns can be resolved through open dialogue with class teachers or other members of staff as appropriate.

Where you are not satisfied with responses received however, we would ask that you then follow the complaints procedure as laid out in our school complaints policy. This is available on the schools website but if you would prefer please contact the school office and we can arrange for a hard copy to be made available

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected.

Within these spaces however we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.

Think before you post

We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or pupils.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, pupil or member of staff.

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to the school they should speak to the class teacher or the headteacher. They should not use social media to air grievances, particularly those which relate to an individual, a small group of children or a member of staff.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of pupils
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libelous comments

- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or pupils
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching school security procedures

At our school we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

Appendix (1)

Our Agreement

Parent/Carers name:

Child or children's name:

Please tick:

I have read and agree to follow the code of conduct.

I understand that if I break the code of conduct then the school will take appropriate action in line with the detail of the policy.

Signed: _____

Date: / /