



Parent Code of Conduct

Approved by:

Date

Next review due by:

Purpose and scope

At Langdon Park 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

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

Parents/carers (and those with parental responsibility) are granted "limited licence" to visit the grounds and buildings of a school.

Established procedures set out: the acceptable purposes for such visits; the areas of the school that may be entered at particular times; the standard of behaviour expected etc.

As a general rule, schools are orderly, safe places, where relationships between staff and visitors, especially parents/carers, demonstrate mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for pupils' welfare and educational progress. Parental involvement is an important factor in educational success and in dealing with emerging problems at an early stage.

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
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- 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 the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

Behaviour that will not be tolerated

Section 547 makes it an offence for a trespasser on school premises to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance, and allows for the removal and prosecution of any person believed to have committed the offence. The penalty for a person convicted of the offence is a fine of up to £500. Section 547, Education Act 1996.

This document is mainly about dealing with violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by parents of a pupil in a school, including those cases where the parent has been asked not to come onto the school premises. Some of the remedies listed are also applicable when dealing with other intruders on school premises.

Violence, threatening behaviour and abuse against school staff or other members of the school community will not be tolerated. All members of the school community have a right to expect that their school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for violence, threatening behaviour or abuse in schools.

At all times the common purpose remains clear: to achieve zero tolerance of violence, threatening behaviour or abuse in schools, and to ensure all members of the school community, and all visitors to the school, can be confident that they are operating within a safe environment. Unacceptable behaviour is such that makes a member of staff or pupil feel threatened. This can be through face-to-face contact, on the telephone or in written communication (including social media).

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated:
 - shouting at members of the school staff, either in person or over the telephone;
 - physically intimidating a member of staff, eg standing very close to her/him;
 - the use of aggressive hand gestures;
 - threatening behaviour;
 - shaking or holding a fist towards another person;
 - pushing;
 - hitting, eg slapping, punching and kicking;
 - spitting;
 - breaching the school's security procedures.
- This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention

- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)

Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

What to do when an incident arises;

- The person in question may be asked to leave the school site.
- If possible, we may invite them into a room away from other people.
- We will endeavor to respond to the concern and offer an appointment at an appropriate time/date, in a timely manner.
- Our staff will make contact with members of the Senior Leadership Team, and may decide to call the police if the situation is not de-escalated.
- All incidents will be logged on a central register at school, where details of the incident will be recorded.
- The Headteacher may write to the person in question and may decide to impose a ban, which could be temporary or permanent.
- Liaison with the police whenever necessary.
- There may be counselling available for any members of staff who have been victims of abuse.

Process for a parent ban:

- Headteacher may decide to ban a parent from the school site parents behave aggressively or abusively towards staff or pupils.
- Witness statements may be collected from staff, students, parents or members of the community present.
- The parent will be issued with a written letter from the Headteacher.
- Temporary ban and allow the parent to present their side by a set deadline.
- Governors will consider the ban based on the information provided from both sides

Governors will decide on one of these outcomes:

- Banning the parent was the wrong decision, and your school will remove it
- Banning the parent was the right decision, but the parent has had time to reflect and is likely to change their behaviour. The temporary ban in place while the decision is made is enough, so your school will remove the ban at the end of this process
- Banning the parent was the right decision, and it should stay in place to be reviewed again at a later date. Your school will confirm the ban.
- The school will write to the parent to let them know the decision. If school has confirmed the ban, it should include a timescale for when it'll be reviewed.
- If a parent who's been banned causes a disturbance or nuisance on the school site, the school can arrange for them to be removed.

- The person could also be prosecuted under section 547 of the Education Act 1996, which makes it a criminal offence for a person who is on school premises without legal permission to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance.

Review of the ban

As well as the parent's comments to the panel, whether in writing or in person, consider:

- Whether the parent has fully complied with the ban
- Any assurances the parent has made about their future behaviour on the school site
- Whether the parent has expressed regret for the actions which led to the ban
- The parent's conduct in any contact or communication they've had with school staff since the ban.

Staff Training:

Members of frontline staff are offered personal safety training, which can help in:

- reducing violent attacks by parents and others;
- enabling staff to defuse aggression and prevent situations escalating;
- teaching staff to recognize verbal and nonverbal precursors to aggression and use techniques to calm a potential assailant;
- improving staff confidence in dealing with aggression and the resulting stress; and
- minimising the risk of an attack causing injury.