

Parent Code of Conduct

September 2017

'Parent' has a very broad meaning in education law: see section 567 of the Education Act 1976. 'Parent means not just the child's natural parents, but includes individuals with 'parental responsibility' for the child (as defined in the Children act 1989) or who have care of the child.

Rationale:

At Sycamore Short Stay School we are very fortunate to have many supportive and friendly parents who recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between home and school. They understand that a good working relationship helps to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of the school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parent and visitors to our school about expected conduct so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

Respect and concerns for others and their rights:

We expect parents and carers to show respect and concerns for others by;

- Supporting the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community.
- Working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the school to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution.
- Correcting their own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Respecting the school environment, including keeping the school tidy by not littering, smoking, or bringing alcohol on to school grounds.
- Following the parking rules and doing the right thing when delivering and collecting children from school.

In order to support a peaceful and safe environment, the school **can-not** tolerate:-

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of the classroom. (This includes un-announced visits).
- Using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child (this includes approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them).
- Physical punishment against your own child on school premises. (Some actions may constitute an assault with legal consequences).

- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening emails, phone or social network messages.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated.

Schools are private places even though they serve a public function. The school has the power to withdraw access if a parent/carer is using abusive or insulting language that represents a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for staff to feel threatened by this behaviour. Please be aware;

Parent/carers displaying threatening or disruptive behaviours on school premises will be reported to the appropriate authorities. School Management Committee Members and the Head Teacher may prohibit an offending adult from entering the school grounds in order to safeguard our school community. This is in line with **School banning orders Education Act 1996 – Section 547** (tackling trespass, nuisance, abuse, and violence towards members of the school community). Schools can issue a Section 547 to a member of the public, an ex-pupil or parents/carers.

The school may initially choose to write to the person/s making them aware that they are causing nuisance and that if they continue to misbehave then they will ask the Local Authority (LA) to instigate a banning order.

If parents/carers are to be barred from a school site, the Head Teacher or Local Authority will write a letter to the parent/carer stating why they are being barred from the premises and giving the person concerned a formal opportunity to express their views. Initially, the bar will be put into place for a limited time. This is usually for a 2 week period so that the person can send in their comments, seek representation and allow for an investigation to happen. Dependent on the outcome of this investigation, the LA will / can then ban a parent for a further 13 weeks maximum at a time. After this 13 week period, the LA will contact the Head Teacher to see whether the ban should continue or whether it can be lifted.

Under Section 547 Education Act 1996 it is a criminal offence for a person who is on school premises without lawful authority to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance. Therefore, if a parent has been barred and still went on to the premises and either caused or permitted a nuisance or disturbance to occur then they may be guilty of a criminal offence. The police would have the power to remove the parent from the school in this situation.

Adapted from:

Department for Education

Advice on school security: Access to, and barring of individuals from, school premises for local authorities, school leaders and school staff.

December 2012