**Bawtry Mayflower Primary School**

**Parents Code of conduct**

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide clarity around the expected conduct of all parents, carers and visitors connected to our school. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding which will benefit our children.

We are proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. Our parents recognise that successfully educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the whole school community. We 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.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner through an open and positive dialogue. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child’s teacher, Mrs Westerman, Miss Dunn (SLT) or Mrs Powell (Headteacher), who will be available to discuss the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school’s complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

**We expect parents, carers and visitors to:**

* Respect the caring ethos of our school, keep our school tidy, set a good example through their own behaviour both on school premises and when accompanying classes on school visits.
* Understand that we 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.
* Make an appointment through the school office if they wish to speak to school staff. In most cases, the class teacher is the first point of contact for any concerns and they are sometimes available to see parents without an appointment however, we would ask that you make an appointment so that teachers are able to plan their work at the start and end of the school day.
* Keep our children safe by adhering to the school’s request to park safely and considerately outside the school gates.

**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 any of the school’s normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
* Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
* Using loud or offensive language or displays of aggression.
* Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or child.
* Damaging or destroying school property.
* Sending abusive or threatening emails, text/voicemail/phone messages, or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community.
* Excessive communication to staff by phone, email or letter. This may be construed as harassment.
* 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, the use of e-cigarettes, 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).

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.

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises or in connection with the school, the school may feel it is necessary to ban individuals from the premises and/or contact the appropriate authorities.

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff 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 any form of insulting social media post 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 LA Legal Team for advice.

**Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

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

The PTA has a Facebook page which allows parents to receive and respond to messages about school events. We encourage you to positively participate if you wish.

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

**‘Think before you post’**

Social media websites are increasingly being used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils.  The Governors consider the use of social media websites 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.

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 children.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the schoolis 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 remove 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.

**“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.” DfE**

**We expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.**

Policy date: September 2023

Review date: September 2024