



Reedley Primary School

Code Of Conduct Policy for Parents, Carers and Visitors to the School

Our school nurtures curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Children at Reedley learn to become resilient and self-assured in a safe environment where challenge is key. Team Reedley are encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

(Mission statement)

All children have the right to a good quality education that uses and develops their talents and abilities. Therefore the school encourages close links with parents and the community. It believes that pupils benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

Reedley Primary School, has a supportive and friendly parent body. Parents, carers and visitors recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, parents and carers are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to Reedley School about the expected conduct, to enable to allow children to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The governing body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in any difficult situations and attempt to defuse such situations where possible, seeking the involvement as appropriate of other colleagues. However, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse.

All parents and other visitors to the school are expected to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

Visitors, parents and carers are expected to:

- Respect the caring ethos 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 and in school grounds where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive 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 following behaviours will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour that 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;
- 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, volunteer, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Physically intimidating a member of staff, volunteer, governor or visitor, e.g. standing very close to her/him, the use of aggressive hand gestures, threatening behaviour, shaking or holding a fist towards another person, pushing; hitting, e.g. slapping, punching and kicking, spitting.
- Approaching someone else's child eg 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).
- Breaching the school's security procedures.
- Damaging or destroying school property (or threatening to).
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook, Instagram or other social media sites. (See Appendix 1).
- Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

Procedure to be followed

If a parent/carer or visitor behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the head teacher or appropriate member of staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and the unacceptable behaviour continues, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the head teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review. (See appendix 2 for further details)

In imposing a ban the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that police involvement may follow
2. Where an alleged assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to the local authority and the police will be included.

3. The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

Any concerns about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so issues can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

The head teacher may seek advice from Lancashire County Council's legal team who may advise and support with communication between parents/carers and school staff. If the head teacher requests it, the legal team could be the sole point of contact for a parent/carer, rather than them contacting the school.

Conclusion

Should any of the unacceptable behaviour occur on school premises, the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities.

The local authority itself may take action where there are serious breaches health and safety legislation.

In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the health and safety and legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

Policy author: Sarah Bell

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Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils.

The Governing body of Reedley Primary School consider the use of social media websites in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns from parents must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in Reedley Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook/X/TikTok or any other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site and the police.

All social network sites have clear rules about the content that can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity that 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.

Appendix 2

Access to School Premises

Parental Access to School Premises and the Principles of the Law of Trespass Schools and school grounds are private places, and anyone entering without authority (which might include parents/carers) is trespassing, and may be asked to leave.

However, the courts have ruled that parents have an implied license to enter their child's school premises, placing them in a different category from other people who visit or seek to enter a school – but this does not mean that parents/carers are entitled to enter the school at any time they choose.

If a parent/carer enters the school at inappropriate times or behaves in such a way that their behaviour is not conducive to the proper function of the school, then their implied license to enter the school premises can be revoked. Thereafter, if they seek to enter the school uninvited, they may be trespassing.

Schools can consider seeking an injunction against persistent trespassers, and breach of an injunction is a contempt of court, for which there are substantial penalties – including imprisonment.

A parent/carer who refuses to leave the school premises, or who re-enters after being requested to leave, may be committing an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996, which states that someone without authority on school premises who causes a nuisance or disturbance is committing an offence (part 3.6).

Police officers and other 'authorised people' (e.g. a member of staff) can use reasonable force to remove somebody reasonably suspected of committing an offence under section 547 (part 3.7).

Causing harassment, alarm or distress to staff or pupils, on or off the school premises, could be an offence under section 154 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (part 4.2)

Threatening, abusing or insulting staff or pupils, on or off the school premises, could be an offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 (part 4.3)

However, Headteachers should consider all the various factors before deciding whether to involve the police in incidents of this nature, e.g. the extent of the challenge to school authority – but if any child is in immediate need of protection, the police must be contacted.

If a Headteacher wishes to take steps to limit individual parents/carers access to the school premises, further advice should be sought from the borough's legal services department.