



We Only Reach for The Highest

# Parent code of conduct

<b>Approved by:</b>	Full Board of Governors	<b>Date:</b> 16 July 2024
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	12 July 2024	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	July 2026	

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents/carers will 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.

## 1. Purpose and scope

At Worthington Primary School, 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).

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct – within the school building, on and outside the school grounds; in person and virtually. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

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)

## 2. Our expectations of parents and carers

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 and school environment 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
- › Set an example to the children of appropriate behaviours.
- › Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

### **3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated**

- › Disruptive behaviour or threatening to disrupt which 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 including team matches.
- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening another member of the school community – verbal or physical.
- › Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- › Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via Dojo message, Dojo post, text, email, social media, voicemail, voice messages or any other form of communication.
- › Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school, its staff or any member of its community on Facebook, other social media sites or communication platforms. (See Appendix 1). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- › Damaging or destroying school property
- › 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 or accredited service dogs)



The following signs are clearly displayed across school.

#### 4. 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.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the Local Authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

#### **Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises Section 547 of the Education Act 1996**

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school. It is also an offence under section 547 of the

Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned. School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

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.

**Appendix 1:** Inappropriate use of Social Network Site Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The Governors considers the use of social media websites being 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.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the school is 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 student removes 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.

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