St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

St Mary's C of E Primary School Hadleigh

Parent Code of Conduct

Adopted: June 2022 Review date: Summer 2024

Rationale

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, we feel that staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

Vision

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The Parent Code of Conduct reflects our Christian vision:

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

> *Unconditional love underpins all we do at St Mary's Church of England Primary School. We value and embrace the individuality of every child as they discover, learn and flourish in a place of security and love.*

St Mary's C of E Primary School is a caring, Church of England school, whose values are built firmly on a Christian foundation. We have an expectation that children and adults will behave with mutual respect and kindness towards one another and engender a trust that will lead to positive relationships. We also believe that everyone needs to take responsibility for their behaviour and the choices they make.

We are an inclusive school, welcoming everyone with respect, understanding and dignity. We have a duty of care to the children and staff in our school community and will demonstrate the compassion and understanding that allows everyone to flourish. In the context of this policy, this means that we aim to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, underpinned by a culture of positivity. This includes working in partnership with parents to support pupils' wellbeing and learning. It also means that all adults, including parents, should endeavour to model the behaviours we would like children to display. Children benefit from seeing the adults around them working together in a respectful way.

Aims

To ensure all members of the school community treat each other with respect by:

- Setting a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and wider community
- Allowing plenty of time so that children arrive punctually to avoid disruption to learning and that of the entire class
- Setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards staff, parents and children on the school premises and in the immediate school area
- Working together with all staff for the benefit of the children - we ask that parents contact the school to deal with any concerns.
- 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
- Parking carefully and in good time for the safety of children, yourself and other road users. To avoid parking, stopping or waiting across driveways which must be kept clear at all times

Definition

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone on the premises to care for or supervise a child (e.g. grandparent or child minder).

Behaviour That Will Not Be Tolerated

Types of behaviour considered serious and unacceptable that will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community: (This is not an exhaustive list)

- Shouting – either in person or on the telephone
- 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 (please refer to the Online Safety Policy)
- Speaking an aggressive / threatening tone
- Physically intimidating e.g. standing very close, shouting in to someone's face
- The use of aggressive hand gestures and/or exaggerated movements
- Physical threats
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- Swearing
- Pushing
- Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
- Spitting
- Prejudice-related behaviours, e.g. racist, homophobic or sexist comments
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Criminal activity, such as possessing or taking drugs

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some case other parents or pupils. The Department for Education and Governors of St Mary's C of E Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way is unacceptable.

Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Libellous or Defamatory Posts

In the event that any pupil, parent/carer or family member of a child/children at St Mary's C of E Primary 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. If libellous or defamatory comments are posted on the school Facebook page, these will be removed and the parent will be blocked from accessing the page.

All social network sites have clear rules about the content, which can be posted in 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.

Incidents of Unacceptable Behaviour

If an incident involving a parent, carer or visitor/friend takes place, St Mary's C of E Primary School reserves the right to take any necessary action to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse. The school will respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision about how to respond to breaches of this code of conduct rests with the Headteacher.

Action may include:

- Gathering information
- Speaking to the parent about the incident
- Writing a letter to the parent
- Contacting appropriate authorities (in the event of criminal behaviour)
- Seeking legal advice
- Banning the parent from the school site

School premises are private property and as such, parents have been granted permission from school to be on the premises. However, in the case of unacceptable behaviour shown to a member of the school community (staff, children, parents, governors etc) school may ban parents from entering the premises.

It is an offence under section 547 Education Act 1997 for any person, including a parent, to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in the removing of persons concerned.

St Mary's C of E Primary School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children when a parents/carer or family member has been banned from the premises. Parents will need to make alternative arrangements for bringing children to school.

Parents have the right to appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors within ten days of permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn. Please note that incidents of

inappropriate behaviour that breaches this code may be logged and shared with the Local Governing Body.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors to review this policy.