



Parental Behaviour Policy

(Linked to Sandwell Legal Code of Conduct Document)

Date: Spring 2019

Review: Summer
2020, Spring 2023, Autumn
2024

Next review: Spring 2027

Ferndale Primary School

School Policies

Rationale

We believe that mutually supportive relationships with the parents and families of our pupils are crucial in ensuring that children develop into confident learners who consistently strive to achieve their potential.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

Aims

To provide an environment in which all members of the school community treat each other with respect.

It is free from disruption so that we can deliver our core purpose of educating, developing and keeping safe our young people effectively without a person's behaviour causing *or being able* to cause a nuisance, annoyance, upset or harm.

Expectations

In order to achieve this aim of mutual respect, parents and other adults visiting the school site are expected to work alongside school staff by :

- setting a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.
- ensuring that no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.
- not making unreasonable demands on school staff and resources.
- treating the school grounds, property and resources with care.
- ensuring that they are not responsible for physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language (verbal or written), to staff, governors, parents and carers, children and other users of the school premises.
- seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about an agreeable solution to any issue.
- correcting their behaviour and that of their own child, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.

- not deliberately undermining school leadership, values and visions either face-to-face, in emails or on social media platforms.
- correcting their behaviour and that of their own child, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict or aggressive behaviour and/or causing *or being able* to cause a nuisance, annoyance, upset or harm.
- Not approaching the school inappropriately or persistently to resolve any issues of concern.

Unacceptable behaviour

In order to support the school's aims and maintain a professional, peaceful and reasonable environment, the school will not tolerate parents or any other visitor to the site exhibiting the following behaviours which cause or are able to cause a nuisance, annoyance, upset or harm.

Please be aware that types of behaviours that disrupt, harm and intend to undermine the running of the school may result in the right of access to the site being withdrawn.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, nor are there absolute definitions of the terms used. While it provides key examples of unacceptable behaviour, adults visiting the site are expected to use common sense and maturity of judgement in refraining from behaviour which the greatest majority of other site users would find unacceptable.

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone.
- Inappropriate posting on social networking sites which could be deemed as bullying, or of a bullying nature.
- Frivolous or vexatious complaints designed to cause disruption or annoyance but serve a lack of purpose or value.
- Speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone directly towards a child or adult.
- Physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close on purpose.
- The use of aggressive hand gestures/exaggerated movements directly towards another person.
- Direct physical threats.
- Excessive use of staff member time preventing staff members from fulfilling their duties;
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person.
- Swearing.
- Pushing.
- Hitting, including slapping, punching or kicking.
- Spitting.
- Racist, sexist, misogynistic or homophobic comments.

- Damaging or destroying school property or that of other site users.
- 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 or eg on Google Classroom, Facebook or other social networking sites.
- Not showing due regard to the safeguarding of children and users of the building or online platforms, through inappropriate comments.
- The use of physical or verbal aggression directly towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them e.g. 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Bringing any dog, other than guide dogs, on to school premises, regardless of them being carried or restrained by a lead.
- Riding bikes, scooters, or similar, across the playground.
- Breaching the school's security procedures.

Procedure to be followed if a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community:

The head teacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures should be followed. Where procedures have been exhausted, or the behaviours continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a number of actions may follow, for example,

- specific or limited channels of communication
- contacting police or legal services
- a parent or carer may be banned by the Chair of Governors from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

The school adheres to Sandwell MBC's policy of "Zero Tolerance" and will therefore follow the Code of Conduct and the procedures set out in this policy's advice in terms of decision making and taking action in response to any unacceptable behaviour.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1997 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. Behaviour of this kind may therefore result in issuing warning notices to offenders.

Repeated or particularly significant behaviour may result in a person's right of access being withdrawn meaning in simplest terms a ban from site. The decision maker at Ferndale Primary School is the Head Teacher in conjunction with the Chair of Governors and their Public Law Duty will inform this decision making.

As part of the process followed, if the decision is made to withdraw access to the site, you will be given the opportunity to respond.

If the ban from school premises is ignored, the school, as part of its procedures, may begin the process of applying for a Criminal Behaviour Order or a Civil Injunction if behaviour continues to undermine the aims and expectations of the school.

Any bans and/or restrictions are reviewed periodically and may be removed by Governors after a period of time whereby the adult has undertaken some or all of the following. Again this is not an exhaustive list and is specific to each case:

- shown remorse for their actions,
- engaged in mediation when suggested/requested
- apologised – either through their own decision or when requested/suggested
- allowed and agreed to return under specific conditions
- met with appropriate agencies e.g police, Inclusion Support officers, Governors

Failure to do so could result in the ban being upheld by Governors.

Incidents off site should be reported to the police.

Reporting to Governors

Governors will receive periodic reports on any acts pertaining to this policy as part of the Headteacher report to Governors.

Linked documents recommended to be read in relation to this policy:

School Complaints Procedure (available on school website and at school office)

Sandwell Code of Conduct (available on school website and at school office)