



# SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mrs G Senior

Executive Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

10 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and you've had an enjoyable Easter break. The summer term is always a very busy and exciting term in schools; I am sure this year will be no different. As we start the new term I would like to ask for your support in relation to how we can all work together to ensure your child, and all children in our school, enjoy their time at Scissett Middle School. We want all children they experience success in their studies and the play a full part in the wider life of the school.

**We are very proud of all that our pupils achieve and much of this success is based around our school expectations of hard work and mutual respect. All staff are committed to ensuring our school community is a happy place for all to learn and work; we also need your support as parents.**

Whilst the overwhelming majority of interactions we have with parents are polite and constructive, we are seeing an increasing number situations where this is not the case. We recognise there are times when parents may wish to raise concerns with the school; it is absolutely right and proper that this dialogue takes place. We ask however that this is conducted in a respectful, balanced and appropriate manner. The following actions are deemed inappropriate and where these occur, staff have been instructed to end any dialogue:

- raised voices, threatening language or an aggressive tone during telephone conversations or in meetings
- unpleasant, aggressive or overly long emails
- parents who refuse to consider the school's point of view or respect school policies

We recognise, and fully understand, that situations involving your child can be emotive – many school staff are parents too so we know how you feel. There is never an excuse to be rude to people however and this will not be tolerated. We often find the story a child has told their parents, either deliberately or due to a lack of understanding, is far from the truth of actually what happened. Please speak with us first before drawing conclusions or getting unnecessarily annoyed or upset.

We are also seeing a dramatic increase in the number of parents who refuse to accept that their child has done or could do anything wrong and who therefore wish to challenge the authority of the school. We all make mistakes, children often more than others as this is part of the process of growing up. The important thing is that we learn from such experiences. As with life, making a mistake in school sometimes warrants a consequence. We ask parents trust the school in such situations and respect the decisions made. All staff who work in schools want the very best for the children in their care and this will sometimes involve issuing consequences when children get things wrong. These matters are always dealt with sensitively and time is spent supporting those involved so they don't repeat the same mistakes in future.



**Working together, respecting all, because everyone matters**

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Too often recently we have found parents have focused their energies on challenging the school rather than working with staff in order to address the concerns raised. This does not help their child and often makes the situation worse because it can lead to a child believing that no matter what they do, their parent will support and potentially excuse their poor behaviour choices. As we all know, when you leave school and go into the wider world potential employers and others will not be as tolerant or as understanding.

Finally, as per previous letters, we ask for your ongoing support in monitoring your child's online behaviour. Unfortunately, we are experiencing an increasing number of situations where social media or group chats have been the vehicle for inappropriate behaviour by pupils. As the use of mobile phones is banned in school, responsibility for such incidents must rest with parents. Wherever we can, the school will offer support however this is not always possible. As such we will often encourage parents to report any incidents of online abuse or bullying directly to the police.

In summary, we ask parents trust that when we make decisions we always aim to act in the best interests of all members of our school community. We fully support every parent's right to ask questions but we expect that this is done in a respectful and balanced way. We want to have good relationships with everyone connected to our school and we would hope that you feel the same way.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor

Executive Headteacher

