



Barring from the School Premises Policy

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1. Introduction

Schools are private places even though they serve a public function. Parents of pupils who are on the school roll have an implied license to enter school premises. This means parents of enrolled pupils can have access to school premises at certain stated times, for example, a playground at the beginning and end of the school day. The school can set out the conditions and terms of this licence.

This implied license may extend to additional facilities secured by the schools for recreation, physical and social training.

Schools will act to ensure they remain a safe place for students, staff and other members of their community and therefore the school has the power to withdraw the license if a parent is using abusive or insulting language that presents a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for staff to feel threatened by this behaviour.

2. Managing inappropriate behavior

If a parent is behaving inappropriately, a report will be made to the head teacher or the most senior member of staff available in their absence, who will decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Parents are advised to raise concerns regarding another parent's behaviour or conduct directly with their child's class teacher or the Headteacher and not to approach the parent themselves.

Instances of parents displaying inappropriate behaviour will be managed in a variety of ways, depending on the severity of the situation.

When a parent has behaved inappropriately, they will be warned about their behaviour, either in writing or in a minuted meeting.

Where this is not enough to resolve the issue, the Headteacher, in collaboration with other staff and relevant agencies, will consider what further action may be required. This action, depending on the situation, could include the following:

- Barring the parent from the school premises
- Contacting the police
- Seeking legal redress through the courts
- Restricting the parent's channels of communication to the school
- Reporting content the parent has posted online
- Referring the case to children's social care

Any child protection and safeguarding concerns will be addressed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school reserves the right to escort anyone off the premises who is displaying aggressive or disruptive behaviour and to bar a parent from the school's premises without warning in exceptional circumstances.

Under section 547 of the Education Act 1996, it is an offence for any person to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises, and the police may be contacted to provide advice on managing an incident or to assist in the removal of individuals from the premises, where necessary.

3. Barring from the school premises

The school has the right to bar a parent from the premises to keep the school community safe.

If a parent is displaying inappropriate or concerning behaviour, they will be asked to leave the school premises.

Behaviour that could result in a parent being asked to leave the premises includes aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language that is a risk to staff or pupils, or behaviour that is making staff or pupils feel threatened.

If a parent persistently or consistently behaves inappropriately on the school site, or there is a one-off incident of extremely inappropriate behaviour, the school reserves the right to bar this individual from the school site.

The school may impose a temporary bar while allowing the individual the opportunity to present their comments and any relevant evidence.

The Headteacher / legal advisors will send a letter to the parent, informing them of the following:

- Why they have been temporarily barred or face a bar
- The nature of the bar
- That they have the right to formally express their views in writing to the headteacher or chair of governors within 10 school days

The headteacher's decision to bar the parent will be reviewed by the chair of governors or a committee of governors, considering any representations made by the parent in line with the appropriate stage of the school's complaints procedure.

The parent will be notified in writing of the decision to uphold or lift the bar.

If the decision is confirmed, the parent will be notified in writing, explaining:

- How long the bar will be in place
- When the decision will be reviewed

Following a review, the bar may be lifted or, if there are grounds for continued concern, it may be extended.

Once the school's process has been completed, the final avenue of appeal for parents who remain barred is through the courts.

4. Calling for police assistance

In an emergency, police assistance should be sought. In cases where a ban is in place but is ignored and the person comes onto the school site, the police should be notified immediately.

In situations where there is no immediate threat, Headteachers may still wish to make their local Community Police Officer aware of the situation.

5. Legal proceedings

Where individuals persist in coming onto the school site even when permission to do so has been withdrawn, it is possible for legal proceedings to be pursued. The options include:

- Prosecution under section 547 of the Education Act 1996
- Acceptable behaviour contracts
- Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- Civil Injunctions
- Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs)
- Restraining orders
- Prosecution for criminal damage/assault

Schools should always seek advice from the police or legal advisors to determine the most appropriate route.

6. Record keeping

All incidents will be recorded on the school's secure safeguarding platform, CPOMS. Records will include: time and date of incident, location of incident, brief details of what happened, who was involved and names of any witnesses, action taken including if the Police were called.

This policy should be read alongside the Complaints Procedure – in the event of ambiguity between the two policies, the Complaints Procedure will take precedence.