



SUMMERBANK PRIMARY ACADEMY

Parental Conduct Policy

Date of Policy	January 2020
Adopted by Governors	January 2020
Review Date	January 2021

Summerbank Primary School Parent Code of Conduct Policy

At Summerbank Primary School 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 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.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about their expected conduct and identifies the procedures that will be taken on the rare occasions when aggression, verbal and or physical abuse occurs. The Governing Body expects and requires its members of staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse incidents where possible. All members of the school community have the right to participate in school life without fear of violence and abuse. 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.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following :

- Disruptive behaviour 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.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Verbally abusing a member of staff, pupils and fellow parents/carers
- Confronting fellow parents/carers/members of the school community regarding incidents that may have happened in or outside of school (in all such cases of alleged incidents that have happened at school, the class teacher (or Head / Deputy Teachers) will seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue).
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.

- 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/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned (rather than raised on social media).
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them 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.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

This list is not exhaustive but seeks to provide illustrations of unacceptable behaviour.

Procedures to be followed when unacceptable behaviour takes place

1. If a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the member of staff involved will behave professionally and attempt to defuse the situation, where necessary they will seek the involvement of other colleagues.
2. Should the above not resolve the situation, the Headteacher, appropriate senior member of staff or the Chair of Governors will seek to address this through discussion or mediation. In some instances it may be appropriate simply to ensure the parent/carer is clear about behaviour standards expected by the school. In other instances this may result in a letter reiterating the standards of expected behaviour and indicating the outcomes of the discussion.
When **persistent unacceptable behaviour takes place** where a parent/carer persistently engages in a pattern of unacceptable behaviour, the academy may decide to put into place arrangements to minimise this behaviour. For example, where a parent/carer engages regularly in arguments with staff at the beginning or end of the school day, the parent could be informed that any discussions with school staff must be held by prior appointment. Or where a parent/carer's relationship is judged to have broken down with a member of staff the parent may be asked not to approach the staff member, but should instead arrange to meet with an agreed member of staff, who will deal with their concerns. Or where repeated aggression is occurring between two families, different drop off/pick up arrangements may be made.
3. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the Headteacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

Withdrawing permission for the parent to enter the school site and/or buildings

Should a ban be imposed the parent/carer will be informed, in writing, that she/he is banned from the premises (subject to review), the reason for the ban being put in place, what will happen if the ban is breached (e.g. police involvement) and where an assault has led to a ban, the letter will include a statement that the matter has been reported to the police. The chair of Governors/Multi Academy Trust will be informed of the ban. Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from school will be clarified.

The ban should be finite in length, as only the most serious misconduct would justify an indefinite ban. The aim should always be to restore "normal" relations as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Even if a ban is permanent, it should be reviewed periodically, taking account of subsequently demonstrated patterns of behaviour. Even where a parent/carer has been banned from the school premises, they retain their right to know about their child's social and educational progress. However, the school may determine who will be present at the meeting (e.g. a senior member of staff might accompany the class teacher) and its location (e.g. it may be arranged off site).

Prosecution for criminal damage/assault

Prosecutions for causing deliberate damage or injury may occasionally be the most appropriate course of action. If the police are called, the option to make criminal allegations is readily available, and they may arrest suspected offenders there and then. Criminal proceedings can be initiated at a later date. Witnesses should be asked to make a record of exactly what they saw and heard at the earliest opportunity.

Record Keeping

Where incidents of unacceptable behaviour by parents/carers are observed in school then the school will maintain a register of the date, individuals involved and the nature of the unacceptable behaviour.