

Parent Code of Conduct



Approved by: Governing Body **Date:** October 2024

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by: October 2025

Contents

1. Purpose and scope	2
2. Our expectations of parents and carers	2
3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated.....	3
4. Breaching the code of conduct	3
5. Unreasonable Behaviour & Social Media	3

1. Purpose and scope

At Leverton Primary School we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

Whilst the public are on our premises, there is an expectation that behaviour by both staff and visitors, including parents of pupils, will meet certain standards. Our staff will be polite and courteous towards you at all times. If you feel a member of staff has behaved in an unacceptable way please end your discussion and report the matter in writing to the Headteacher or Senior Manager. They will then contact you to investigate and attempt to resolve your complaint. In return, it is our expectation that you will be polite and courteous to staff. If staff are subjected to unacceptable behavior, they have been instructed to end the discussion with you and inform you of the reasons. You will be asked to leave the premises. A letter to confirm the reasons why you were asked to leave and the action that we intend to take as a result will be sent to you. You will be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with us in a calm and civil manner. If the incident is particularly serious or is repeated you may be barred from the school premises.

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening words/gestures or intimidating another member of the school community
- 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
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher

- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from our legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

5. Unreasonable Behaviour & Social Media

It is not appropriate to make personal accusations or attacks on members of school staff, or to raise matters that are not about education or a pupil's well-being.

It is also not appropriate to make unsubstantiated allegations against the school or staff, or to behave unreasonably through the use of social media platforms or by not engaging with the school to attempt to find a joint resolution. In the instance of unreasonable behavior, (which includes continuing to raise similar issues, making unsubstantiated allegations or statements in social media or other forms of communication with other parents, or raising a range of unrelated issues on a repeated basis) the school reserves the right not to respond and these instances may be seen as vexatious.

This may also include instances where a parent refers to previous incidents that have been investigated but there was no cause for concern or where a parent/s may use social media or other forms of communication with the wider parent community to make unfounded allegations or accusations.

The school will always aim to respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher who will consider all advice sought regarding any issue or incident before deciding.

Inappropriate use of social media Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The Governors considers the use of social media websites or apps being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the students or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the appropriate member of staff, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

'Think before you post'

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children without permission
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, governors, children or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libelous comments

- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behavior, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching school security procedures

Thank you for abiding by this code in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school. It is important for parents and carers to make sure any persons collecting their children are also aware of this policy.