



Parent code of conduct

Review Due:	September 2023
Last Review	September 2020
Applicable to:	All Trust Schools
Reviewed By:	SP
Approved By:	Board of Trustees September 2020

Comments:

This is a new, non-statutory policy requested by some schools to ensure a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents/carers. It is also designed to ensure that adults are modelling appropriate behaviour for pupils at all times.

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
Appendix 1: model letters.....	4
Initial warning letter from the headteacher.....	4
Model letter banning a parent from school sites.....	5

1. Purpose and scope

At The Bath and Mendip Partnership Trust, 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 our schools 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

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our schools
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Treat all members of our schools' communities 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 any of our schools' grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of any of our school communities
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the any of our school communities, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about our schools, their staff or any member of their communities, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on any of our schools' 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 any of our schools' premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto any of our schools' premises (other than guide dogs or school dogs)

4. Breaching the code of conduct

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

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

- Invite the parent in to schools to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Send a warning letter to the parent or contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the trust's central team and if necessary, their legal advisors regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from school sites

The schools 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 relevant school's headteacher.

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