

Parent and Visitor Conduct Policy

**Oldswinford
Church of England
Primary School**



**Parent and Visitor Conduct
Policy**

Approved by the Governing Body: March 2022

Review: March 2025

Review: July 2028

**** For 'parent' read for any adult who accompanies children onto the school site.**

Rationale:

At Oldswinford CE Primary School, we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users is contrary to the aims of the school.

Aims:

That all members of the school community treat each other with respect in line with our school vision and values:

We fully embrace our distinctive church school ethos and wholeheartedly promote the whole child and the fullness of life, as set out in our ethos, vision and values:

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'

At Oldswinford Church of England Primary School we believe that there is a light which shines within each of us – a light that has been given to us by God, which we should use to help us achieve great things.

We believe it is our job to help that light to shine in all that we do and all that we try to do.

Believe

'Everything is possible for one who believes'

Mark 9:23

As a Church of England school we offer all children an invitation into the Christian faith, a chance for them to develop spiritually as well as intellectually, socially and morally. We want children to believe in their own abilities, to persevere when things are tough and we encourage them to aim high and follow their dreams. We want them to have the confidence to stand up to injustices and to make wise choices.

Achieve

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' Colossians 3:23

We have high aspirations for all our learners and believe that every child should have the chance to reach their potential. We recognise that achievements come in many guises and we look to celebrate each child's individual talents. We want to ensure our children are prepared for the next steps in their learning journey and they have all the skills they need to flourish and be happy.

Shine brighter together

'Let your light shine for others, so they may see your good works'

Matthew 5:16

We believe that we all belong to one big family and each of us has a special part to play. We understand the need for our children to be responsible citizens especially when caring about our world and the people around us. As individuals we are unique and special but together, with God, we can be exceptional.

Our vision and 7 key Christian values of love, respect, trust, courage, forgiveness, generosity and joy enable us to 'believe, achieve and shine brighter together'.

Expectation:

That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.

That no members of staff, parents, visitors or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises

Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language verbal or written, to staff, governors, parents and careers, children and other users of the school premises will not be tolerated and will result in withdrawal of permission to be on school premises.

Any adult/visitor who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors

Please note that incidents of rudeness will be logged with the Chair of Governors.

**Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises
Section 547 of the Education Act 1996**

School premises are private property and parents/ carers and visitors have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or others, school may ban parents from entering school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent/carer or visitor) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

Guidelines:

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community:

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour:

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone
- Inappropriate posting on Social Networking sites which could bring the school into disrepute or be deemed as bullying
- Speaking in an aggressive / threatening tone
- Physically intimidating, e.g.: standing very close
- The use of aggressive hand gestures / exaggerated movements
- Physical threats
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- Swearing
- Pushing
- Hitting e.g.: slapping, punching or kicking
- Spitting
- Racist or sexist comments including sexual innuendo

Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites:

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, head teachers, school staff, and in some cases, other parents / pupils.

The Governing Body of Oldswinford CE Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this was as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Senior Leader, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/career of a child being educated at Oldswinford CE Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook, WhatsApp or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/career or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse.

Parents have the right to appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors, within ten days of their permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to monitor and review this Parent and Visitor Conduct Policy every 3 years.

Procedure to address inappropriate behaviour by adults on the school site

At Oldswinford CE Primary School, we operate a 'zero tolerance' of the use of inappropriate behaviour anywhere on the school site.

***Inappropriate behaviour means disrespectful conduct towards people or property within the school site.*

Our Parent and Visitor Conduct Policy states:

- That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community
- That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.

All staff and governors agree that any adult found to be using inappropriate behaviour towards other adults or children should be dealt with using the following steps:

An adult approaches another child	The adult will be spoken to immediately and the issue investigated by a school leader. This will be reported to the Headteacher and
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	recorded. The adult will receive a warning letter.
A parent approaches another parent	The parent should report this to a member of staff or a school leader. The offending parent/s will be spoken to as soon as possible after the incident and reminded that we have a zero tolerance of inappropriate behaviour. A letter will be given to parent/s. This warns a parent that if it recurs they could be banned from the school site under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.
A parent approaches a member of staff <i>*Staff are instructed not to engage with an adult who behaves inappropriately towards them. If at any point staff feel uncomfortable or threatened, they have the right to walk away.</i>	This should be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This will be investigated as soon as possible and the member of staff will be informed of the action taken. The parent/adult will be spoken to and given a warning letter. This warns a parent/s that if it recurs they could be banned from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.
Recurring inappropriate behaviour	If a parent continues to use inappropriate behaviour, they will be referred to the Parent and Visitor Conduct Policy. This indicates how anti-social behaviour, when not corrected, can lead to advice and support from Dudley LA's legal team, interviews with the Headteacher and Governors. This can then lead to a ban from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

**Depending on the circumstances of the individual incident, these procedural steps may be amended at the discretion of the governing body.
The school reserves the right to go straight to a ban where the circumstances are sufficiently serious in the school's view.**