

Sandy Lane Primary School



Parents & Visitor Code of Conduct

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|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Drafted: | Mr. John Cooper | | |
| January 2020 | (Executive Headteacher | | |
| Date of next review | Cllr. Sue Duffy | | |
| January 2025 | Chair of Governors | | |

Sandy Lane Primary School

Parents & Visitors' Code of Conduct

We encourage strong partnerships with our parents, and work hard to maintain mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for the children.

The code of conduct for visitors to school is that of mutual respect for school staff and children to all visitors. Included in this, is respect for school property, other visitors and children.

The school expects parents, guardians, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of the school
- Understand that parents and teachers need to work together for the benefit of children.
- Demonstrate in their own behaviour that all members of the school community should be treated with respect.
- Support all school staff in managing behaviour and attitudes at school
- If necessary, seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a mutual understanding and agree a solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's misbehaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict.
- Approach school staff with courtesy and respect to help resolve issues, and using the school's Complaints Policy procedures should they remain dis-satisfied.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children.

We thank that all parents, guardians, carers and visitors who observe these expectations.

However, in a very small minority of cases, the behaviour of a few parents, visitors and guardians can cause disruption, resulting in abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff, other parents or visitors.

This will not be tolerated. All members of the school community have a right to be treated with respect and for the school to be a safe place.

Schools are not public buildings. Schools are private property. People do not have an automatic right to enter. Parents, guardians, carers and visitors have an 'implied licence' to come on to school premises at certain times, for instance:

1. for appointments
2. to attend a school event
3. to drop off or pick up younger children

For the purpose of points 1-3 above, we as a school have listed above behaviours which we will not tolerate.

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office or other area of school grounds
- Loud aggressive or offensive language, swearing, cursing or displaying temper
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, parent/carer or pupil

- Damaging or destroying school property or threatening to damage or destroy school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails, text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media sites
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physically punishing your own child on school premises

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The school does not tolerate... the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child

- Chastising someone else's child
- Intimidation of other children, visitors or staff
- Smoking, or consuming alcohol or drugs whilst on school property
- Bringing dangerous, dogs on to school premises

To safeguard children, visitors are permitted onto the premises by permission only and the appropriate visitors onto the premises must be regulated by the school through. The Executive Headteacher / Head of School are able to withhold permission for anyone to enter the school premises.

If the parent's or visitor's behaviour is unreasonable, permission for them to be on the school premises may be withdrawn using the procedures below.

Procedures

If an incident comprising the behaviour set out above arises, the member of staff will follow these procedures:

- invite the person them to a room away from a crowded area or classroom.
- If deemed necessary, ask the person to leave the school premises immediately
- If required ask the Executive Headteacher or Head of School for support.
- In the event of violence or aggression, contact the police using 999.

After the Incident

The Executive Head / Head of School will:

- Ask the people who witnessed and were involved in the incident to make witness reports in writing as soon as possible after the incident. (See attached Incident Report Form). Reports must be signed and dated.
- Consider whether the person should be banned or given a warning letter. Sample letters from the appendices may be used, or other appropriate wording which must inform the parent of the content of this policy.

- The Executive Head / Head of School will discuss any bans with the Chair of Governors and keep them informed.
- If the executive Head feels that it is appropriate warning letter about the inappropriate nature of the parent/visitors behaviour will be issued. See model letter 1 below.
- Alternatively, the Executive Headteacher / Head of School may believe that a temporary ban is necessary. If the Executive Head Teacher / Head of School considers it unwise to allow the parent back on the premises at this time, he/ she will impose a temporary ban for one or two weeks, in order investigate the incident and to give the parent an opportunity to make representations in writing. See model letter 2 below.
- After the period of one or two weeks has elapsed the Executive Headteacher will write to the parent/visitor informing him/her of the decision to extend the ban or not to renew it after the initial weeks have elapsed. See Model letter 3 below.
- If a ban is renewed after the initial weeks, the Executive Head/ Head of School will impose any further ban for a fixed period of time and explain that he/ she will review the ban at the end of that period.
- At the point of review the Executive Head will write to the parent or visitor either to lift the ban or extend the ban, with the reason for doing so.

Police Assistance

In the event of a parent (or other person) becoming aggressive or violent, school **will contact the police using 999**. When the situation does not require immediate Police response, but there is prior knowledge of likely trouble, the Head Teacher may contact the local Police Station or the school's Police Liaison Officer for advice.

Should a person infringe their withdrawal of permission, they will be treated as a trespasser and the Police will be called.

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This includes trespass, nuisance or disturbance on school premises, verbal abuse, sexual or racial abuse, threats, threatening behavior, aggression, physical violence and intentional damage to personal property.

This form should be completed as fully as possible (please use a continuation sheet if necessary). For an incident involving or witnessed by a child, a member of staff should complete the form on their behalf. However, any discussion between one witness and another should not precede completion of the form, as this might lead to allegations of collusion.

Date of incident.....

Day of week

Time

1. Member of staff reporting incident

Name

Work address (if different from school address).

.....

Position.....

2. Personal details of person assaulted/verbally abused (if appropriate)

Name

Work address (if different from school address)/home address (if pupil).

.....

Job/Position (if member of staff).....

Dept/Section/Class

Age Sex

3. Details of trespasser/assailant(s) (if known)

.....

4. Witness(es) if any

Name

Address

Age (approx) Sex

Other information

Relationship between member of staff/pupil and trespasser/assailant, if any.

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5. Details of incident

a) **Type of incident** (eg if trespass, was the trespasser causing a nuisance or disturbance and how; if assault, give details of any injury suffered, treatment received etc).

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b) **Location of incident** (attach sketch if appropriate).

.....

c) **Other details:** describe incident, including, where relevant, events leading up to it; relevant details of trespasser/assailant not given above; if a weapon was involved, who else was present?

6. **Outcome:** (eg Whether police called; whether trespasser was removed from premises under section 547; whether parents contacted; what happened after the incident; any legal action?).

.....

7. Other information (to be completed as appropriate)

a) Possible contributory factors.

.....

b) Is trespasser/assailant known to have been involved in any previous incidents YES/NO?

.....

c) Give date and brief details of (b) if known.

.....

d) Had any measures been taken to try to prevent an incident of this type occurring? If so, what? Could they be improved?

.....

e) If no measures had been taken beforehand, could action now be taken? If so, what?

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f) Name and contact details of police officer involved, and incident number or crime reference number, as appropriate.

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g) Any other relevant information.

.....

Signed

Date

Model Letter 1 – warning letter from Head Teacher

Dear

Re: Your conduct on school premises on (insert date)

I refer to the incident that took place on school premises today (or insert relevant day) when you (insert details of the incident).

If the Head Teacher did not witness the incident they may wish to use the following text: I have considered the witness accounts of the incident, (if relevant: including your own), and it would appear (insert details of incident).

Your behaviour falls short of the standard of conduct expected of those visiting the school. I must therefore warn you that if you are involved in a similar incident again, you will leave me with no alternative other than to ban you from coming onto the school site without my written permission.

I do hope that this will not be necessary and that I can rely on your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Executive Head Teacher

Model Letter 2 – Ban from school premises for one week (or so) whilst obtaining the parent’s account and views from Head Teacher

Dear

Your conduct on school premises on (insert date)

I refer to the incident that took place on school premises today (or insert relevant day) when you (insert details of the incident).

If the Head Teacher did not witness the incident, the following text may be used: I have considered the witness accounts of the incident, (if relevant: including your own), and it would appear (insert details of incident).

Your behaviour falls short of the standard of conduct expected of those visiting the school. (Omit if this is a first incident – As you will remember, I have previously warned you about your behaviour when I wrote to you on (date)). I have considered the matter very carefully and have decided that you should not be allowed on to the school premises from now until (insert date). During that time, I will review the situation. Before I make a final decision you may, if you wish, write to me to give me any further information you want me to take into consideration. You have until (insert date) to write to me.

If you need to speak to me or a member of staff about any matter, please telephone and I will make the necessary arrangements and confirm them to you in writing. You will not be allowed to come onto the school site unless you have a letter from me giving you authorisation.

If you do not comply with this ban, you will be guilty of causing a nuisance or disturbance on educational premises. This is a criminal offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If you were to commit this offence, you would be liable to prosecution in the magistrates’ court. If you were to be convicted, you would be liable to a fine and a criminal conviction.

I regret that I have had to take this action and hope that I can rely on your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Executive Head Teacher

Model Letter 3 – Ban from school premises for specified period from Head Teacher

Dear

Your conduct on school premises (insert date)

I refer to the incident that took place on school premises on (insert relevant day) when you (insert details of the incident). In my letter dated (insert date), I referred to my intention to ban you from the premises and I invited you to make representations to me about this.

I have considered the points you have made to me and I have decided to proceed with the ban for a period of (insert number of weeks or an indefinite period), until (insert date), after which the ban will be reviewed by the Chair of Governors and myself. I will write to you again when this review is going to take place so that you may make written representations, which we will take into account. When we have made our decision, I shall write to you to inform you of it together with our reasons.

If you need to speak to me or a member of staff about any matter, please telephone and I will make the necessary arrangements and confirm them to you in writing. You will not be allowed to come onto the school site unless you have a letter from me giving you authorisation.

If you do not comply with this ban, you will be guilty of causing a nuisance or disturbance on educational premises. This is a criminal offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996. If you were to commit this offence, you would be liable to prosecution in the magistrates' court. If you were to be convicted, you would be liable to a fine and a criminal conviction.

I regret that I have had to take this action and hope that I can rely on your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Executive Head Teacher

Model Letter 4 – Unban from school premises from Head Teacher

Dear

Your conduct on school premises on (insert date)

On (insert date) I wrote to you informing you that I had temporarily withdrawn permission for you to come onto the school premises. To enable me to determine whether to confirm this decision for a longer period, I gave you the opportunity to let me have your written comments on this incident by (insert date).

I have not received a written response from you/I have now received a letter from you dated (insert date), the contents of which I have noted. (delete either sentence as appropriate).

(However) in the circumstances, (insert detail) I have decided to restore to you the permission to come onto the school premises, with immediate effect.

Nevertheless I remain very concerned at the incident which occurred on (insert date), and I must warn you that if there is any repetition of your behaviour on that occasion, I shall not hesitate to withdraw permission for you to come onto the premises again.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher