

Middleton School

Parent Code of Conduct Policy



Reviewed May 2022

Ratified by governors May 2022

Due for Review May 2024

Why a policy is needed?

At Middleton School we are very proud and fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the staff, governors, parents and carers all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

As a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their future steps in learning and education. For these reasons we value, welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

This code of conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors has been adopted and agreed by the school's governing body. It provides information for all parents, carers and visitors to Middleton School about the conduct expected of them. It sets out what they should aim to do, as well as providing clarity about conduct which will not be tolerated. In turn, this allows pupils to continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect.

Guidance;

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school.
- Understand that both staff 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 style of communication and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify further information when an issue arises in order to bring about a peaceful solution for all.
- Act as positive role models at all times.
- Share information openly with the school which is pertinent to a child's well being.
- Engage in school events and collaborative opportunities.
- Communicate effectively with staff members regarding planned meetings or events, or child absence.
- Attend consultation opportunities and EHCP reviews.
- Respect the working hours of staff when communicating and awaiting a response.
- Be punctual when collecting pupils from school, or a planned event.
- Abide by the school code of conduct for vehicles on site and follow the rules shared.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school **cannot** tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting any of 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.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student 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 students/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. (See below). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Dogs being brought on to school premises (other than guide dogs) without prior arrangement.
- Failure to respect school rules or staff requests when driving vehicles within the school grounds.
- Engaging in discussions relating to pupils other than their own child, approaching another child to discuss actions against their own child, or requesting information about children other than their own.

Should any of the above occur on school premises or at a school linked event, the parent/carer will be asked to leave the premises voluntarily. Failing this, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

Online activity;

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected. Within these spaces however we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.

'Think before you post' Social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or children.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or student 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.

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 libellous 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 behaviour, 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.

Disseminating the policy

A full copy of this policy is freely available to parents on request. This policy is shared on our school website and is included in a welcome pack for all families new to the school.

This policy will be reviewed every two years and ratified by the Governing Body.