

# Dr South's CE Primary School

Bletchington Road, Islip, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2TQ

*Faith, Hope and Love*

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## Code of Conduct for Parents (non-statutory)

The Governors at Dr South's CE Primary School adopt the attached Code of Conduct for Parents.

**Adopted by the Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee in October 2016**

**Reviewed by the Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee in October 2018**

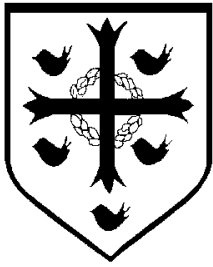
Signed ..... **Chair of Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee**

Signed ..... **Headteacher**

**Review date: July 2020**

**Review frequency: every two years**

**Review approval: Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee**



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## Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

At Dr South's School we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the parent body, staff, governors, parents and carers alike all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership process between all these parties.

As a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of solid working relationships to equip all of our children with the necessary skills for adulthood.

For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of the school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents and carers visiting our school about the expectations around the conduct of all visitors to our school.

We understand that everyday frustrations can cause misunderstandings and have a negative impact on our relationships. Establishing where this happens, that we remain committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner through open positive dialogue is, however, essential. In this way we can flourish and progress to achieve, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. Our school already has a code of conduct for all our employees, but this code is aimed at the wider school community so that all can see and understand the expectations of the visitors or those connected with the school. The policy aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seeks parental acceptance of these expectations. The policy also sets out the actions the school can take should this code be ignored or where breaches occur.

### **Behaviour that will not be tolerated:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises;
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises;
- Loud or offensive language or displays of temper;
- Damage or destruction of school property;
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voice/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community;
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/governors at the school on Facebook or other sites;
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment of your child on school premises;

- Approaching someone else's unaccompanied child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. Such an action may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences;
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. Alcohol may only be consumed during authorized events.

Should any of the above occur on school premises or in connection with the school, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or considering banning the offending adult from entering the school premises altogether. Parents and carers needs to ensure that all persons collecting their child/ren are aware of this policy.

## **What happens if somebody breaks the code?**

In the event of any parent/carer breaking this code, the proportionate action may be taken. In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter the concerns will in the first instance be referred to Thames Valley police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff or governor in the school. This will also include anything that could be seen as a form of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyber-bullying. In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander then the school may refer the matter for legal advice. In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libelous, slanderous or a criminal matter, then the school will send a formal letter to the parent/carer with an invitation to a meeting.

If the parent/carer refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not they may be banned from the school premises. If after this the behaviour continues the parent/carer will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

In serious cases a ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps listed above.

## **Complaints**

This code of conduct does not prevent parents/carers from raising a legitimate complaint in an appropriate fashion.

In most cases we hope that all complaints and concerns can be resolved through open dialogue with class teachers or other members of staff as appropriate.

Where parents are not satisfied with responses received, however, parents/carers should follow the complaints procedure as laid out in our school complaints policy. This is available on the school website, and a printed copy is also available from the school office.

## **Issues of conduct with the use of social media.**

Many people take part in online activities and social media.

There is a Facebook page run by the Friends of Dr South's and this can be a useful source of knowledge, support and advice. Parents are encouraged to join in and participate if they wish.

Within this space, however, parents are asked to use common sense when discussing school life online.

The school asks that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaint against the school, school staff, parents or pupils. The school takes inappropriate use of social media by parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, pupil or member of staff very seriously.

Social media should not be used as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity considered inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images of pupils;
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents;
- Bringing the school into disrepute;
- Posting defamatory or libelous comments
- E-mails with abusive or personal comments about staff or pupils;
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children;
- Threatening behaviour, such as using intimidating, discriminatory or foul language;
- Breaching school security procedures.

The school takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and will deal with any reported incidents seriously and in line with the actions outlined above.