

Thirsk Community Primary School

Code of Conduct for Parents and Visitors



At Thirsk community Primary School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, teachers and the whole school community. As a partnership our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. The purpose of this guidance is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school.
- Understand that both teachers 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 speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue'
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help you to resolve any issues or concerns.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of any area of the school grounds.
- Using loud/or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to any to any other person on school premises 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 or other written communication.
- Defamation of the school's or staff character on Facebook or other social sites.(see appendix 1)
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on the school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Using their mobile phone on the school premises
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs on the school premises.
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school will implement action and may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and, if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds. (see appendix 2 & 3)
Please note that incidents of will be logged with the Chair of Governors.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school by abiding by the guidance and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

Appendix 1- Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, governors, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Thirsk Community Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

In the event that any parent or pupil of a child being educated at Thirsk Community Primary School is found to posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or others 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 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.

We aim to resolve your concerns amicably however if you do have any concerns please contact the class teacher in the first instance. If the matter remains unsolved it will be dealt with by the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so it can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

APPENDIX 2

GUIDANCE ON DEALING WITH AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

MODEL LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

DISAPPROVAL OF BEHAVIOUR

Dear (Name)

I am writing to you following an incident that took place on between yourself and staff at the above school. I find this behaviour totally unacceptable. **(Summarise what the unacceptable behaviour was)**. Not only was it extremely distressing to myself and the other staff involved, but also it was worrying for children and parents who witnessed it. I am also very concerned that such a sudden deterioration in the relationship between you and the school will not help (name)'s progress.

Any parent who has serious concerns about the school should speak to me: if you are not satisfied with my response you may contact or write a letter of complaint to the Chair of the Governing Body. I recommend you continue to pursue your concerns about the school in this way.

Meanwhile, I must warn you that any repetition of what happened will lead to me taking further action. This could involve your being prohibited from coming onto the school site and referral to the Local Authority or the Police, **with a view to criminal and/or civil legal proceedings being commenced against you if necessary without further notice to yourself.**

I hope this will not be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Chandler
Headteacher
c.c Chair of Governors

APPENDIX 3

MODEL LETTER FROM HEADTEACHER

PROHIBITION FROM SCHOOL SITE

Dear (Name)

In view of what happened when you came into school and (brief details of incident), **I am prohibiting you from entering the school site until further notice.**

The only exception to this prohibition will be on those occasions when you are specifically invited by me to come into school to discuss your child's progress.

If you wish to communicate with the school on any matter, you must do so by telephone or writing.

If you do not abide by this prohibition I will refer to the Local Authority, **with a view to criminal and/or civil legal proceedings being commenced against you, if necessary without further notice to yourself, although I hope this will not be necessary.**

I regret taking this action, but your recent behaviour has left me no alternative.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Chandler
Headteacher
c.c. Chair of Governors