

Outcomes First Group

Code of conduct for parents, carers and visitors.

Kestrel House School May 2025

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1.0 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND VISITORS

At Kestrel House School, we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school, the 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 these to equip 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 our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers, and visitors to our school about the expectations around the conduct of all parents and visitors connected to our school. We understand that everyday frustrations can cause misunderstandings and have a negative impact on relationships. Establishing where this happens, and that we remain committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner through open positive dialogue is, however, essential. In this way, we can continue to 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 behaviour of all visitors or those connected with the school. The policy aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seek parental sign-up to 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 routines anywhere on the school premises.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer, or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/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 social media (See Appendix I for more details)
- The use of physical, verbal, or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child 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).

Should any of the above occur on school premises or in connection with the school, the school may feel it is necessary to act by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or, sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises altogether. Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. All concerns are deemed as Safeguarding Concerns and will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also for all who work and visit our school.

Please note: Parents/carers please make sure all persons collecting their children are aware of this policy.

2.0 WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IGNORES OR BREAKS THE CODE?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of the school breaking this code, then proportionate actions will be taken as follows.

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 Metropolitan 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 sign of harassment to any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyberbullying. In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the Outcomes First Legal Team for further action.

In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not a libellous, slanderous, or criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter to the parent/carer with an invite 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 this behaviour continues, the parent/carer will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note:

(1) a ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

(2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance and monitored by the Head of School.

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 you are not satisfied with the responses received, we would ask that you then follow the complaints procedure as laid out in our school complaints policy. This is available on the school's website, but if you would prefer, please contact the school office and we can arrange for a hard copy to be made available. Please see the Complaints policy on the school's website.

3.0 ISSUES OF CONDUCT ONLINE (INCLUDING WHATSAPP GROUPS)

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting, and keeps us connected. There are various online school groups managed by parents for parents, such as class Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups, and they can be a wonderful source of knowledge, support, and advice. We encourage

you to join in and positively participate if you wish. Within these spaces, however, we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online. In addition, making calls or using WhatsApp video or Facetime in school premises is strictly prohibited and is a Safeguarding Concern.

Think before you post...

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

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to the school, as we have said above, they Should:

- 1 . Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains, they should contact the head teacher
3. If still unresolved, they should follow the complaint's procedure

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity that we consider inappropriate:

- 1 . Identifying or posting images/videos of pupils (other than their own children)
2. Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents
3. Bringing the school into disrepute
4. Posting defamatory comments
5. Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or pupils
6. Using social media to publicly challenge school decisions or school policies or discuss issues about individual children
7. Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
8. Breaching school security procedures

At Kestrel House School, we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

Please see the Safeguarding policies on the school's website.