

Parent code of conduct

Carlton Junior and Infant School



Approved by: **Governing Body** Date: **28th** September 2020

Last reviewed on: **[Date] 28th** September 2020

Next review due by: **[Date] 28th** September 2023

1. Purpose and scope

At Carlton Junior and Infant School, we believe it's important to:

- › Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- › Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- › Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

Parents are free to express opinions about the school and we welcome feedback, so long as they are not threatening or abusive towards the school's staff.

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- › Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- › Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers to:

- › Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- › Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- › Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- › Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- › Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- › Approach the class teacher in the first instance to help resolve any issues of concern
- › Approach the Head teacher by emailing her PA on office.carlton@kirkleeseducation.uk if the issue is not resolved with the class teacher
- › Recognise the time constraints under which members of staff in schools work and allow the school a reasonable time to respond
- › Recognise that resolving a specific problem can sometimes take time

2a. Our expectations of parents and carers during COVID-19

- › Recognise that the school staff have a duty of care towards the whole school community and therefore have stringent risk assessments in place for day to day management
- › Recognise that the decision to send your child home is entirely based on the scientific and legal guidance presented by Public Health England, Kirklees Health & Safety Department and the Department of Education
- › Recognise that every school has its own unique context and set of circumstances and therefore some decisions will be made their unique context
- › Recognise that as a public service school will always work within the legal guidelines

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- › Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)

- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening another member of the school community
- › Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- › Actions which are obsessive, persistent, harassing, prolific and repetitious
- › Prolific correspondence or excessive e-mail or telephone about a concern or complaint
- › Discussing school issues with other professionals – bringing the school's or staff's name into disrepute
- › Congregating in groups or influencing other parents and discussing members of staff negatively for personal reasons
- › Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. *Even if the school or member of staff is not named but is identifiable, this is a breach of GDPR*
- › Use freedom of Information requests excessively
- › Cause ongoing distress to individual member/s of school staff and/or have significant adverse effect on the whole/parts of the school community
- › Pursue complaints or conversations in a manner which can be perceived as intimidating and oppressive by the staff i.e situations where persistent demands and criticisms have a cumulative effect over time of undermining confidence, well-being and health of school staff
- › Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- › Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- › Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- › Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- › Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- › Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- › Send a warning letter to the parent
- › Invite the parent in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- › Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour including harassment)
- › Seek advice from the local authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous including comments made to others about the school either verbally or on social media)
- › Ban the parent/s from the school site
- › Persistent threatening behaviour may result in Police intervention
- › In case of breaching the COVID act, report to relevant professional body including PHE

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors and the legal team before banning a parent from the school site.



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