



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

2021

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PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

At The Stonehenge School, we are extremely fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children effectively is a process that involves partnership between parents, staff and the wider school community.

Our vision at The Stonehenge School is that learning is at its most powerful when everyone respects one another as part of our community.

The purpose of this document 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 provide a community where:

- **Every child feels safe and well-being is supported.**
- **We are caring towards others and our environment.**
- **Children are encouraged to be reflective and self-responsible.**
- **Everybody is valued and respected.**
- **We take pride in our learning and achievements.**
- **Strong partnerships with the community are valued.**
- **Enthusiasm and a curiosity for learning is fostered.**

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).

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 and other visitors to:
- Respect and model the caring ethos of our school, and promote the vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with tolerance and respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech, conduct 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 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 right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

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3. BEHAVIOUR THAT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

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

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches, classrooms, an employee's office, the main office or any other area of the school grounds)
- Disturbing school staff and trying to speak to them whilst they are supervising children
- Breaching school security and safeguarding procedures, or attempting to gain entry to any part of the school without permission and appropriate supervision
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive, persistent or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms (see additional advice regarding social media)
- 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)
- Behaving in a manner that compromises the safeguarding of children within our school

4. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools or to share inappropriate information, e.g. naming children involved in incidences, sharing confidential information regarding an aspect of school life, making allegations or accusations or sharing false news.

The Stonehenge School considers the use of social media websites or Apps in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class

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teacher, the leadership team or the Headteacher, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the The Stonehenge School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites or Apps, 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/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In cases where a parent wishes to make/has made a complaint to the school, at any level, posts on social media regarding the complaint would be deemed to break confidentiality. In order for complaints to be resolved as quickly and fairly as possible, we request that complainants do not discuss complaints publicly via social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Complaints will be dealt with confidentially for those involved, and we expect complainants to observe confidentiality also.

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.

5. 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, or safeguarding concerns)
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

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 before banning a parent from the school site.