

St Gregory's RC Primary School A Voluntary Academy



Code of Conduct for Visitors and Parents

Written: Spring 2017 by Headteacher
Reviewed: August 2024 by Headteacher
Approved by Governors: October 2022

School Mission Statement

St Gregory's is a sanctuary of love and hope where greatness grows.

Introduction and Rationale

This policy links to our school aims and mission statement in the following way:

- We want children and staff to enjoy coming to school and feel safe, healthy and confident.
- We want visitors to remark on the wonderful atmosphere in the school.
- We want to have an effective and supportive relationship with Parents, Governors, St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, the local and wider community and the Local Authority.

Our school encourages close links with parents and the community. We believe that children benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one.

We know that parents, carers and others visiting school are keen to work with us and are supportive of our school. However, on occasions, there could be a negative attitude towards the school, and sometimes this can result in aggression and verbal and/or physical abuse towards school staff or other adults on the school site.

The school expects its staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations and attempt to defuse the situation where possible, seeking the involvement, as appropriate, of other colleagues. However, all staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse and the right, in extreme cases, of appropriate self-defence. Our pupils also have the right to attend school without witnessing inappropriate behaviour, which can make them feel unsafe.

The school expects parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards school staff and other adults on the school premises. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where parents' behaviour is unacceptable.

BEHAVIOUR

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of unacceptable behaviour:

- Shouting at school staff (or other adult), either in person or over the telephone
- Physically intimidating a member of staff (or other adult) e.g. standing very close to him/her
- Verbal abuse, making personal comments i.e. You are...
- Threatening school staff (or other adult)
- Sharing or holding a fist towards another person
- Writing abusive comments about a member of staff (this includes on social media e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- Writing derogatory comments about the school on social media
- Swearing at a member of school staff (or other adult) on school property

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- Pushing
- Hitting, e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
- Spitting
- Racist or sexist comments
- Breaking the school's security procedures

Unacceptable behaviour will result in St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust and the Police being informed of the incident.

PROCEDURE

When a parent or member of the public behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of our school staff (or other adult on the school premises), the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will seek to resolve the situation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedure should be followed.

The school will respond in a measured way, depending on the breach of policy. In the event of a breach, the school will try to respond in one of the following ways:

- Initiate a meeting or dialogue with the parent or visitor;
- Write to the parent or visitor, describe their misconduct and its impact on the school;
- Impose visiting conditions;
- Warn of the possibility of a ban from the school if the misconduct is repeated;
- Impose a ban with a review after a fixed period or at appropriate intervals;
- Impose a permanent ban.

Barring Visitors or Parents/Carers

The DfE Advice on School Security document (2012) states that *'a school may consider that aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour, or language from a parent presents a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened. In such a circumstance, schools have a power in common law to bar the parent from the premises.'*

Prior to being banned the following steps will be taken:

1. The parent will be warned, in writing, that s/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that an injunction may follow.
2. Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to Bolton Council and the Police will be included.
3. The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban.
4. Where appropriate, arrangements for children being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

CONCLUSION

Children learn best when there is a positive partnership between home and school. Whilst every effort will be made to work with parents, this will only be possible where parents behave in an acceptable way. Unfortunately, where a parent's behaviour is either unacceptable or serious it will not be possible to continue working with him/her and, as a final resort, legal action may be taken.

The school will take action where behaviour is unacceptable or serious and breaches our home-school code of conduct or health and safety legislation.

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