



# Bewdley Primary School

## Parent Code of Conduct

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## **Contents:**

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Expectations
3. Driving pupils to school
4. Inappropriate behaviour
5. Managing inappropriate behaviour
6. Barring from the school premises
7. Monitoring and review

## Statement of intent

At Bewdley Primary School, we strive to build a strong relationship with parents and carers to help create a stimulating learning environment that continues from school to home, providing all pupils with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

To create a welcoming and safe learning environment, the school implements a specifically designed set of rules regarding behaviour and conduct which parents are expected to act in accordance with. Our definition of parents also includes those who provide support for the children in our school (i.e., including those who collect or has contact with school on behalf of the child).

All staff members have the right to work without fear of violence or abuse; therefore, physical attacks, threatening behaviour, and abusive or insulting language towards staff members, governors, visitors, pupils or other parents may result in individuals being removed from the premises.

This document outlines the manner in which parents are expected to act whilst on the school premises, as well as detailing the type of behaviour that will not be tolerated. **In choosing to send your child to this school, you are agreeing to uphold the school's policy and parent code of conduct.**

## 1. Legal framework

This document has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2011
- Education Act 1996
- Children Act 2004
- DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education 2022'
- DfE (2018) 'Controlling access to school premises'

This document operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Use of Images Policy
- Parent Social Media Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- School Drug Policy
- Policy for dealing with persistent or vexatious complaints / harassment in schools
- E-Safety Policy

## 2. Expectations

Our school expects parents to:

- Act in accordance with this code of conduct at all times.
- Support and reflect the school's ethos and values through their behaviour.
- Set a good example to pupils through their behaviour and the way they interact with staff, pupils and other adults.
- Work together with staff members for the benefit of their child and to resolve any issues of concern.
- Treat all governors, staff members, pupils, other parents and any members of the school community with dignity and respect.
- Where appropriate, clarify their child's version of events with the school to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their child's behaviour appropriately, particularly on the school grounds where it could otherwise lead to conflict or aggressive or unsafe behaviour.
- Respect the school's property and environment by keeping it clean and tidy.
- Follow the school's parking rules and procedures for dropping-off and collecting pupils from school.
- Dress in an appropriate manner when on the school premises and attending school events, and ensure their dress and appearance reflects that they are role models for pupils, e.g. parents may not wear nightwear when dropping-off or collecting pupils.

Parents are required to act in accordance with all relevant school policies and procedures at all times including, but not limited to, the following:

- Use of Images Policy
- School Drugs Policy
- Parent Social Media Policy

Parents can request copies of all relevant policies and procedures from the school office or can download them from the school website

## **Driving pupils to school**

Parents can drop off their child in the school layby in the morning if they feel their child is able to walk independently down the path and enter the school alone. Should parents wish to bring their child into school, they should either walk or park their car legally and safely near to the school being mindful of the need for good visibility for other pupils coming to school and for the local community to enter and leave their drives. Parents can walk into the school grounds to collect their child and should park any vehicle away from the school in a legal and safe way. Parents are not permitted to stop, wait, drop off, or pick up pupils while parked in a prohibited area. Parents should leave the school grounds as soon as possible after collecting their child so that the school can be secured for children who remain in our care after the end of the normal school day.

Residents' drives should not be blocked under any circumstances, even during short periods of waiting where the car is in use. Vehicles should be driven in a calm manner which causes least disturbance to residents.

Engines should be turned off when a vehicle is stationary and not in traffic as vehicle exhaust emissions contribute significantly to air pollution and are particularly harmful to children.

Due regard should be given to the directions of the school's traffic marshals, who are present to advise on and enforce this code of conduct when available.

The school's traffic marshals will seek, as far as is possible, to prioritise patrolling the drop-off zone in the morning and will assist parents in dropping off and moving on. It is not possible to use the layby at the end of the school day and parents should not park in there whilst waiting for their child.

All pupils will wear a seatbelt at all times while they are dropped off and picked up. Parents will ensure pupils disembark vehicles safely at the correct stop and cross roads with care.

Parents are to use their discretion in severe weather and drive with extra caution as appropriate.

We only have two designated spaces for parents/carers/pupils with disabilities. Please bring a copy of your blue badge information to the school office to verify your entitlement to use these spaces. If these spaces are full, do not park in the car park unless there is a designated space available. We need to ensure that emergency vehicles are able to enter the car park, staff are able to move in and out of spaces and that Severn Trent vehicles can always move

freely up and down the school drive. You may need to park away from the school or leave and return when a space becomes available.

Pupils should not be collected late - all pupils are expected to be collected at just after 3.00pm (Reception and KS1) and just after 3:10 pm (KS2). If a parent is delayed in picking up their child for any reason it is the parents' responsibility to call an authorised adult to collect the pupil from school on their behalf.

Parents that are going to be late picking their child up from school and cannot arrange for an authorised adult to collect the pupil from school on their behalf should inform the school as soon as possible – this may incur a cost if it is necessary to put the child into Rascals.

### **3. Inappropriate behaviour**

The school takes instances of inappropriate behaviour very seriously and will not tolerate any circumstances that may make pupils, staff members and other members of the school community feel threatened.

Parental behaviour that the school does not tolerate includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using foul, abusive or offensive language
- Raising voices inappropriately at another individual
- Making racist, homophobic or sexual comments
- Using aggressive hand gestures, e.g., raising fists and fingers
- Discriminating against any member of the school community, including pupils, staff, governors and other parents
- Bullying, harassment or intimidation, including physical, verbal and sexual abuse offline and online
- Sending abusive, aggressive or threatening messages, emails or other communications to any member of the school community
- Trespassing on school property without prior permission or implied licence
- Causing intentional damage to school property
- Breaching the school's security procedures
- Using physical violence on the school premises or on a member of the school community, e.g., hitting, slapping, punching, kicking and pushing
- Physically intimidating an individual
- Partaking in unnecessary physical contact with an individual
- Writing or posting abusive, offensive or defamatory comments about an individual or the school, including on social media
- Psychologically harassing any member of the school community, including displaying vexatious behaviour which is humiliating for the individual and is damaging to their self-esteem
- Displaying disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operations or activities
- Approaching another parent or pupil to discuss or reprimand them because of an issue between pupils
- Threatening any member of the school community in any way

- Arriving on the school premises partially clothed
- Smoking or vaping on the school premises
- Taking illegal or harmful drugs while on the school premises
- Drinking alcohol on the school premises, unless it has been authorised and supplied by the school at a specific event
- Taking photographs or videos on the school premises without permission from the school
- Driving unsafely within the vicinity of the school

#### **4. Managing inappropriate behaviour**

If a parent is behaving inappropriately, a report will be made to the headteacher or the most senior member of staff available in their absence, who will decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Parents will raise concerns regarding another parent's behaviour or conduct directly with their child's class teacher or the headteacher and will not approach the parent themselves.

Instances of parents displaying inappropriate behaviour will be managed in a variety of ways, depending on the severity of the situation.

When a parent has behaved inappropriately, they will be invited to a meeting by the headteacher to discuss their behaviour and to attempt to resolve the issue. Where this initial meeting is not sufficient to resolve the issue, the headteacher, in collaboration with other staff and relevant agencies, will consider what further action may be required. This action, depending on the situation, could include the following:

- Barring the parent from the school premises
- Contacting the police
- Seeking legal redress through the courts
- Restricting the parent's channels of communication to the school, e.g. no longer allowing the parent to send emails to a staff member directly
- Reporting content the parent has posted online to the website's admin
- Referring the case to children's social care, where the behaviour indicates that the parent poses a risk to children

Any child protection and safeguarding concerns will be addressed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school reserves the right to escort anyone off the premises who is displaying aggressive or disruptive behaviour. The police may be contacted to provide advice on managing an incident or to assist in the removal of an individual from the premises, where necessary. The police will be contacted where a parent is being violent or has committed assault, or where the event has caused harm to an individual.

If a parent has been previously barred from the premises, or has exceeded their implied access to the premises and is causing a disturbance, the police will be contacted to remove the individual from the premises.

If concerns are raised in relation to a parent's appearance or dress, personal factors will be taken into consideration, on a case-by-case basis, when addressing the concern.

If a parent persistently displays unacceptable and inappropriate behaviour, this may result in them being barred from the school premises, in line with the Barring from the school premises section of this policy.

## **5. Barring from the school premises**

The school has the right to bar a parent from the premises to keep the school community safe. If a parent is displaying inappropriate or concerning behaviour, they will be asked to leave the school premises. Behaviour that could result in a parent being asked to leave the premises includes aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language that is a risk to staff or pupils, or behaviour that is making staff or pupils feel threatened.

If a parent persistently or consistently behaves inappropriately on the school site, or there is a one-off incident of extremely inappropriate behaviour, the school reserves the right to bar this individual from the school site.

The school will either:

- Bar the parent temporarily, until the parent has had the opportunity to formally present their side.
- Inform the parent that they intend to bar them and invite them to present their side.

The headteacher will send a letter to the parent, informing them of the following information:

- Why they have been temporarily barred or face a bar
- The nature of the bar, i.e. if they are temporarily barred pending their representation or if they must present their side before the decision to bar can be made
- That they have the right to formally express their views on the decision to bar in writing to the chair of governors within 10 working days

The headteacher's decision to bar the parent will be reviewed by the chair of governors.

The chair of governors will take account of any representations made by the parent and decide whether to confirm or lift the bar. The parent will be notified in writing of the decision to uphold or lift the bar.

If the decision is confirmed, the parent will be notified in writing, explaining:

- How long the bar will be in place.
- When the decision will be reviewed.

Decisions to bar will be reviewed at the end of the agreed timescale, in line with the process outlined above. Following a review, the bar may be lifted or, if there are grounds for continued concern regarding the parent's conduct, it may be extended.

Once the appeal process has been completed, parents that remain barred may be able to apply to the Civil Courts. If a parent wishes to exercise this option, they will be advised to seek independent legal advice.

## **6. Monitoring and review**

This document will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher and any changes made will be communicated to all parents and staff at the school.

The next scheduled review date for this document is May 2026.

All parents will be provided with a copy of this code of conduct when their child starts at the school, and are required to familiarise themselves with the procedures and guidelines outlined.