



Hunts Cross Primary School

Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

Hunts Cross is a caring school which aims to create a stimulating, learning environment in which every individual has the opportunity to be the best they can be.

Code of Conduct

At Hunts Cross Primary School we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us achieve the very best for the children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continually welcome and encourage parents or carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

To truly create the best outcomes for children requires the relationship between home and school to be based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child or children are safe and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

Guidance

Holding the above principles in mind, parents, carers and visitors are reminded:

- To respect the caring ethos and values of the school.
- That both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Approaching school staff for help to resolve an issue is done in an appropriate manner.
- All members of the school community are treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour.
- The school needs to work with a child in order to clarify their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue.
- To correct their child's actions especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises.
- To use other strategies rather than using 'staff' as threats to admonish their children's behaviour.

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

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools operation or activities 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 school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carers or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social media sites. (See Appendix 1).
- The use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against 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.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises (other than guide dogs).

Should **any** of the above occur, the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises. Thank you for abiding by this policy. Together we can create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but for all who work in and visit our school.

Note: Can parents please ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

APPENDIX 1

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils. School staff should be safe from abuse, threats and violence and this includes cyberbullying. In respect of closed groups i.e. on Facebook or WhatsApp created by parents or carers to discuss school matters, these groups are not commissioned or authorised by the school. Hunts Cross Primary School discourages the use of social media as a platform for parents and carers to inappropriately comment or raise their concerns in respect of school.

Hunts Cross Primary School has an “open door” policy and we have appropriate channels to be used if parents or carer have any concerns or issues. If we become aware of any social media posts, consideration will be given as to the contents of the comments and whether they are serious enough to constitute a criminal offence, harassment and/or defamation.

The Department for Education/Government and Governors of Hunts Cross Primary School considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, and then the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

It is a criminal offence to “send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character” (The Communications Act 2003). If guilty then this offence is punishable by imprisonment (up to 6 months) and a fine (up to £5,000).

Pursuant to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 “a person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another or others and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of that or those others”. Therefore communications sent via social media which target an individual may amount to harassment. If proven, an injunction to refrain from such conduct may be granted and compensation ordered.

Libellous or Defamatory posts - In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at Hunts Cross Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, both publically or through private messages, 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. The Defamation Act 2013 defines a defamatory statement is one that “tends to lower the claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally”. The statement must have caused (or be likely to cause) serious harm to the claimant’s reputation and if proven, compensation can be ordered.

Cyber Bullying – we take very seriously the use of cyber bullying by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. This includes school staff. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. The school will also consider its **legal options** to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.