



Appropriate conduct of parents and visitors policy

This policy has been developed with the understanding that the vast majority of our parents are extremely supportive of the school and we value their support.

At Great Doddington Primary School we recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school. We understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood and we will work hard to build and maintain trust and mutual respect with all.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about their expected conduct. This is so we can continue to *inspire, achieve and shine* in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect.

1. Expectations

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school that is underpinned by our core values
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect, and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour
- Talk politely and respectfully towards each other at all times
- Listen to their child's version of events whilst understanding there may be other information which will need to be understood in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Ensure their child behaves responsibly when waiting on the school site at the beginning and end of the day
- Approach the school respectfully to help resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

2. Conduct

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

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including sports games (offsite)
- Making impolite, rude and disrespectful comments
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages, social media posts or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school (Defamation Act 2013)
- Posting or publishing any defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on **any** social media platform such as Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, etc. (Defamation Act 2013) (see **Appendix 1**). *Any concerns you may have about the school of a member of staff must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the headteacher or the chair of governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned*
- Harassment- where an act has happened on more than two occasions (Protection from Harassment Act 1997)
- The use of physical 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)
- Approaching another parent or carer to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of another child towards their own child.
- Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school will feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, ban the offending adult

from entering the school grounds.

3. Responding to inappropriate behaviour from parents or visitors

We will act to ensure Great Doddington Primary School remains a safe and enjoyable place for pupils, staff, visitors and all other members of our community. If a parent/carer has concerns we will always listen to them and seek to address them. However, inappropriate, abusive, threatening or violent behaviour will not be tolerated.

Allegations or malicious comments against members of staff of the school have an unwanted effect on the setting's ethos, this can result in a detrimental effect on children.

Staff, pupils and the community have a right to expect their school to be a safe, respectful place in which to work and learn.

Appendix 1

Inappropriate use of social networking sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The governors of Great Doddington Primary School consider social or media websites being used 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 teacher, the Headteacher or the chair of governors, 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 at Great Doddington Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social networking sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the website. All social networking 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 serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

We will take the issue of cyber bullying and the use of social networks by children or parents to publicly humiliate another very seriously as an incident of school bullying.

Staff and parents should note that:

- No photographs other than of themselves or their children alone may be published online / on social networking sites
- No information or photographs may be published online / on social networking sites that would reflect badly on themselves or the reputation of the school

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.