St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

Parent Code of Conduct

Date Approved and Minuted	**MAT Board**	
Date of Next Review	**MAT Board**	

Parent Code of Conduct

Introduction

At St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, staff in all our schools work to create a safe and loving environment for everyone within their school family so that they can be the best that they can be. We prepare our children to go out into the world equipped with everything that is good for the good of all. Our schools are inclusive, welcoming all children and families with respect, understanding and dignity.

In keeping with this, we believe that all members of a school community, including staff, parents and children, are entitled to have a safe and protective environment in their school. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the school premises is contrary to the aims of the Trust and its schools.

We have an expectation that children and adults will behave with mutual respect and kindness towards one another and engender a trust that will lead to positive relationships and that everyone should take responsibility for their behaviour and the choices they make.

Definition

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone on the premises to care for or supervise a child (e.g. grandparent, carer, guardian or child minder).

We use the term 'school community' to refer to all those involved with the school, including children, staff, parents, governors and volunteers.

Vision

Our expectations link to the Church of England's vision for education:

- **Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills:** enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- **Educating for hope and aspiration:** enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- **Educating for community and living well together:** a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- **Educating for dignity and respect:** the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth

Each of our church schools has its own vision, rooted in Christian narrative, supporting this core vision.

Aims

We have a duty of care to the children and and staff in our school community and will demonstrate the compassion and understanding that allows all children and adults within our school family and local community to flourish.

As part of this, we aim to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, underpinned by a culture of positivity. This includes working in partnership with parents to support pupils' wellbeing and learning. Children benefit from seeing the adults around them working together in a respectful way; parents should endeavor to model the behaviours we would like children to display by:

- Setting a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and wider community
- Ensuring children arrive punctually to avoid disruption to their learning and that of the entire class
- Setting a good example in their speech and behaviour towards staff, other parents and children on the school premises and in the immediate school area
- Working together with staff for the benefit of the children - we ask that parents contact their child's school to deal with any concerns
- Correcting their own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour
- Respecting the school environment, including keeping the school tidy by not littering
- Parking or waiting carefully, avoiding areas such as zig zags and driveways to ensure the safety of children and other road users

Unacceptable Behaviours

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

- Speaking in an aggressive / threatening tone, shouting or swearing – either in person or on the telephone
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text and email
- Inappropriate use of social media (see below)
- Being physically intimidating including:
    - standing very close, shouting into someone's face
    - using aggressive hand gestures and/or exaggerated movements
- Using physical threats or actions including:
    - Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
    - Pushing
    - Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
    - Spitting
- Prejudice-related behaviours, e.g. racist, homophobic or sexist comments
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Criminal activity, such as possessing or taking drugs

If an incident of unacceptable behaviour takes place, our Trust schools reserve the right to take any necessary action to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to further abuse. Schools will respond to each incident in a proportional way.

The final decision on the response to behaviour that breaches this code of conduct rests with the Headteacher of the school.

Actions may include:

- Gathering information to gain further understanding of the incident
- Speaking to the parent about the incident
- Writing a letter to the parent
- Contacting appropriate authorities (in the event of criminal behaviour)
- Seeking legal advice
- Banning the parent from the school site

Bans from School Premises

School premises are private property and, as such, parents are normally granted permission by the school to enter the school site. However, where a parent has exhibited significant unacceptable behaviour towards a member of the school community, the school may ban that parent from entering the premises.

Note: It is an offence under Section 547 Education Act 1997 for any person, including a parent, to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in the removing of persons concerned.

Note: Schools are not responsible for organising arrangements for children when a parents/carer or family member has been banned from the premises. Parents will need to make alternative arrangements for bringing children to school.

Parents have the right to appeal by writing to the Chair of Governors within ten days of permission to enter the school premises being withdrawn.

Inappropriate use of Social Media Platforms

Social media is increasingly being used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some case other parents or pupils, as well as to send abusive messages. The Department for Education and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust consider using social media in these ways to be unacceptable.

Parental concerns

Some concerns parents have arise from simple misunderstandings, so it is important that any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children are **always made through the appropriate channels** to enable concerns to be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all parties. In the first instance this is by speaking to the class teacher or the Headteacher.

Libelous or Defamatory Posts

All social media platforms have clear rules about the content that can be posted and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity that breaches this. In the event that any pupil, parent/carer or family member of a child/children at a Trust school is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social media, the school will report this to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of that platform and ask the parent to remove those comments. The school will expect the parent/carer or pupil to remove such comments immediately.

If libelous or defamatory comments are posted on a school's social media presence, these will be removed and the parent may be blocked from access.