



**Thistly Meadow Primary School  
PARENT, CARER AND VISITOR CODE OF  
CONDUCT**

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### **PARENT, CARER AND VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

At Thistly Meadow Primary School we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents.

Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between home and school and understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parent/carers and visitors to our school about expected conduct so that we can work together to ensure a safe and positive school environment for our children.

#### **RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS AND THEIR RIGHTS**

This guidance supports implementation of the Home-School Agreement. We expect parents and carers to show respect and concern for others by: -

- Supporting the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community
- Working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the school to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution
- Reinforcing the school's policy on Behaviour
- Respecting the learning environment appropriately (both in school and off site)
- Parking with consideration and respect for others when delivering and collecting children from school.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school does not tolerate:

Disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the school grounds;

- Using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper

- Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them and physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Physically intimidating a person i.e. standing very close to them
- Discriminatory comments

School premises are private property and parents will generally have permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in cases of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, the schools may ban parents from entering the school in line with section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

Some actions may constitute an assault with legal consequences:

- Damaging or destroying school property;
- Abusive, threatening, malicious or inflammatory emails, phone or social network messages (see below)
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated

The above behaviours on school premises will be reported to the appropriate authorities and the school may prohibit an offending adult from entering the school grounds to safeguard our school community.

If there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that someone has committed an offence under section 547 then the offender can be removed from the school. The removal may be effected by a police officer or a person authorised by the Local Authority.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Thistly Meadow Primary School considers the use of social 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 Head teacher 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 Thistly Meadow Primary School is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook (**either in private groups or public posts**) or other social network sites, 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.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites.

## **CYBER BULLYING**

Additionally, staff in schools may become targets of abuse by cyber bullying which can have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing. This may consist of threats, harassment, embarrassment, humiliation, defamation or impersonation. It may take the form of general insults or prejudice based abuse e.g. homophobic, sexist, racist and other forms of discrimination. It may involve email, virtual learning environments, chat rooms, websites, social networking sites, mobile and landline phones, digital cameras, games and virtual world sites.

The school operates a zero tolerance policy towards direct or indirect harassment, assault or bullying against any member of staff, volunteers and governors. This includes the use of cyber bullying and electronic communications to facilitate the act.

In serious cases the school will consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and cyber bullying, and will obtain guidance from its Legal Services team at the Local Authority, Leicestershire County Council.

## **PUBLICATION OF DIGITAL MEDIA**

Parents/carers and visitors are strictly prohibited from making available photographs or videos of pupils and staff at Thistly Meadow to the public domain. This includes paper publications and social media sites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, You Tube etc. This applies to all school events such as performances, sports days, special events, PTA events etc.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Thistly Meadow Primary School is found to be posting digital content in the public domain such as, but not limited to, the sites above, the school will expect that any parent/carer removes such content immediately.

## **PROCEDURE**

If a parent/carer behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school community, the Head teacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedures will be followed.

Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, a parent or carer may be banned by the Head teacher from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review. However, this may be with **immediate** effect if the Head teacher believes there is a potential health and safety risk to staff or pupils. In imposing a ban, the following steps will be taken:

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

The Local Authority itself may take action where behaviour is unacceptable or there are serious breaches of this policy or health and safety legislation. In implementing this policy, the school will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Local Authority's education, health and safety and legal departments, to ensure fairness and consistency.

## **REPORTING**

Incidents may be reported to the local Police and the Local Authority and will be recorded on the Local Authority's Health and Safety reporting system, Assessnet. Clear, detailed records of events including witness statements will be kept and may be used in any following legal action.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will fully support this Code of Conduct.

This policy will be reviewed in 2025, unless there are material changes in the interim.

| Version | Date   | Comment |
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