

Heritage Park Primary School

Parental Conduct Policy



Approved by:	Senior Leadership Team
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Last reviewed on:	December 2024
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Next review due by:	December 2026
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Parental Conduct Policy

Rationale:

At Heritage Park Primary School, we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the school.

Aims:

- That all members of the school community treat each other with respect

Expectation:

- That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community
- That no members of staff, parents or children are victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on or near the school premises
- Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language verbal or written, to staff, governors, parents and carers, children and other users of the school premises will not be tolerated and will result in withdrawal of permission to be on school premises
- Any parent who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors.

Please note that incidents of rudeness will be logged with the Chair of Governors.

Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises Section 547 of the Education Act 1996:

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering the school site.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

Guidelines:

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards any member of the school community:

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour:

- Shouting, either in person or over the telephone
- Speaking in an aggressive/threatening tone
- Physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close
- The use of aggressive hand gestures/exaggerated movements

- Physical threats
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- Swearing or other offensive language
- Pushing or spitting
- Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking
- Inappropriate posting on Social Networking sites which could bring the school into disrepute or be deemed as bullying
- Racist or sexist comments including sexual innuendo
- Unjustified accusations of discrimination
- Electronically recording (including filming or taking photographs) meetings, telephone calls and conversations without the prior knowledge of consent of the persons involved.

Inappropriate use of Social media and Social Networking Sites:

The Headteacher may give permission for parents and carers to take photographs or record videos during school productions and events, such as Sports Day and Christmas Productions. These images must be for personal use only and should not be posted on any form of social media.

Social media and social networking sites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and in some cases, other parents/pupils. The Governing Body of Heritage Park 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, Senior Leaders, 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 being educated at Heritage Park Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook 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. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

Unacceptable conduct may result in the Police being informed.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse.

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

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to monitor and review this Parental Conduct Policy on a biennial basis or earlier if the need arises.

Procedure to address inappropriate behaviour by adults on the school site:

At Heritage Park Primary School, we operate a 'zero tolerance' of the use of inappropriate behaviour anywhere on the school site.

Inappropriate behaviour means disrespectful conduct towards people or property within the school site.

Our Parental Conduct Policy states:

- That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community
- That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.

All staff and governors agree that any adult found to be using inappropriate behaviour towards other adults or children should be dealt with using the following steps:

An adult approaches another child in an inappropriate manner	The issue will be investigated by a member of the Leadership Team. The adult concerned will also be spoken to. This will be reported to the Headteacher and recorded. The adult will receive a warning letter.
A parent approaches another parent in an inappropriate manner	The parent should report this to a member of staff or a member of the Leadership Team. The offending parent/s will be spoken to as soon as possible after the incident and reminded that we have a zero tolerance of inappropriate behaviour. A letter will be given to the parent/s. This warns a parent that if it recurs they could be banned from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.
A parent approaches a member of staff in an inappropriate manner	This should be reported immediately to a member of the Leadership Team. This will be investigated as soon as possible and the member of staff will be informed of the action taken. The parent/adult will be spoken to, reminded of the parental conduct policy and given a warning letter. This warns a parent/s that if it recurs they could be banned from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.
Recurring inappropriate behaviour in an inappropriate manner	If a parent/s continues to use inappropriate behaviour, they will be referred to the Parental Conduct Policy. This indicates how anti-social behaviour, when not corrected, can lead to a ban from the school site under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.