

COPPICE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADULTS ON THE SCHOOL SITE- PARENTS & CARERS BEHAVIOUR CODE

Document History

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ADULTS ON THE SCHOOL SITE – PARENTS & CARERS BEHAVIOUR CODE

The Governing Body and Head teacher strongly believe that our school should be a welcoming and safe place for our children, staff and parent/carers alike and that our parents and carers share that belief. We have legal responsibilities for the safeguarding and wellbeing of our children and staff, and a duty of care to all users of our school.

All adults who enter our school site at any time should set examples of behaviour and conduct which positively influence children and young people and we believe that they should therefore demonstrate high standards of conduct in order to encourage our pupils to do the same. Parents and carers must show respect to all other adults, children and staff.

Adults who do not behave in an acceptable manner may be asked to leave the site and the Head teacher has the right to further restrict their access. The process for restriction of access in relation to parents and carers who have reason to come on to the school site is set out in our Access Restriction Procedure below.

Adult behaviour which is regarded as unacceptable includes:

- Physical abuse, threatening, oppressive or aggressive behaviour or use of offensive language towards other adults, staff or children
- Entering the school site under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Smoking or vaping anywhere on the school site
- Bringing dogs, with the exception of Assistance Dogs, on to the school site without the explicit permission of the Head teacher. This includes standing with a dog at one of the site entrance gates.

School-related issues which parents or carers have concerning school, pupils or their families must be brought to the attention of a member of staff. Parents or carers must not try to resolve any issues themselves by direct action either to an adult or child. If issues cannot be successfully resolved by speaking to a staff member, the correct course of action is to use our Complaints Procedure as appropriate

We expect all communication between parents/carers and school to be conducted in a polite and respectful manner. Communication may be similarly restricted if it becomes unacceptable.

The recommended Procedure which accompanies the Code is:

Restriction of Access Procedure

Introduction

The School has adopted a Parents & Carers Behaviour Code which is based on good practice derived from court judgments and Government guidance. Legal advice is that schools can be confident that the possibility of challenge will be minimised by following this procedure. Government guidance reflects court judgments which show that parents and carers who have children in school have greater rights to be in school than general members of the public. In order to restrict those

rights schools must be able to show that they have behaved reasonably and given “offending” adults the opportunity to make representations or apologise.

Restrictions on access must be reviewed periodically. It is inappropriate to refer to restriction of access as “banning” because the subject(s) can still come on to the site with permission. It should be noted that the Code and Procedure only relates to parents and carers who have good reason to come in to school and does not have to be followed in relation to trespassers or others

Procedure

1. The Head teacher contacts the Trust’s solicitors if it is felt that there has been an incident or series of incidents which breach the Parents & Carers Behaviour Code.
2. An officer discusses with the Head teacher whether restriction of access is appropriate and reasonable – it may be that less serious control measures are appropriate. If restriction of access is thought to be appropriate, a recorded delivery letter will be sent from the Trust’s solicitors on behalf of the Head teacher to the offending adult(s). The letter will explain why it is believed that the Parents & Carers Behaviour Code has been breached. It will also state that the adult(s) must not enter the school site until further notice but that the Head will consider any representations or apology received in writing within the following seven days before deciding whether to ratify the decision.
3. The Head takes a view on the decision at the end of the seven days and writes to the parent(s) or carer(s) by recorded delivery post to say whether the restriction will continue and if so when it will be reviewed.
4. Any subsequent complaint about the restriction by the offending adult should be dealt with by the Chair as a complaint under the Complaints Procedure.

The Parents & Carers Behaviour Code also mentions restriction of communication in the event of communication which is not polite and respectful. Advice should be taken from the Trust’s solicitors if this becomes an issue. Further advice should also be taken from the Trust’s solicitors if Head teachers are unsure about any aspect of the process.