

Abbeys Primary School



Parents, Carers and Visitors' Code of Conduct and Behaviour on School Premises Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The vast majority of parents, carers and other visitors to our school are supportive of the school, its teachers, other members of staff, its students, their parents and other visitors, and act in a reasonable way, ensuring that the school is a safe, orderly environment in which students can learn.

Occasionally, however, a negative attitude is expressed in an aggressive, verbally abusive or physically abusive way towards these members of the school community which is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The school requires its staff to behave professionally in these difficult situations, attempting to defuse the situation wherever possible, and to seek the involvement of other members of staff as appropriate. However, all teachers and members of staff have the right to work without fear of harassment, violence, intimidation or abuse.

The school expects parents and other visitors to always behave in a reasonable way towards all members of the school community. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken where the behaviour displayed falls below the standard the school expects and will not be tolerated.

The types of behaviour which are deemed unacceptable are:

- shouting, either in person or over the telephone;
- using intimidating language or behaviour;
- using threatening language or behaviour;
- using abusive language or behaviour;
- using insulting language or behaviour;
- using aggressive or offensive hand gestures;
- threatening gestures;
- swearing;
- pushing, shoving or jostling;
- any physical assault such as hitting or spitting;
- any other behaviour likely to cause anybody witnessing it (including the recipient) alarm, distress or to fear that violence may be used against them or others.

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

PERMISSION TO ENTER AND BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

Parents have “implied permission” to enter and be on the school’s premises for reasons relating to their child / children’s education. This means that parents are welcome to come to the school to drop off and collect their children, subject to any restrictions that may apply to vehicle access to the site, to speak to teachers and other members of staff about their children, or for meetings, parents’ evenings and social events. Parents do not have a legal right to enter or be on the school’s premises without a good reason.

In education law, the term “parent” includes the natural or adoptive parents of a student, as well as a non-parent with care of a student and a non-parent with parental responsibility of a student. For the purposes of this policy, the term “parent” will also include a non-parent who does not have care of or parental responsibility for a student, but who is involved in looking after a student on a regular basis (for example, a childminder, non-resident partner of a parent or relative who takes the student to or from school, is involved with the care of the student in some other way, or a person whose emergency contact number we have been provided with).

Other visitors also have “implied permission” to enter and be on the school’s premises if they have a reason, for example a courier or delivery person, or a member of the public attending the school’s office to make enquiries about something. Members of the public without a good reason for entering or being on the school premises are trespassing.

WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION TO ENTER AND BE ON THE SCHOOL'S PREMISES

The school has the right to withdraw the “implied permission” for a parent or visitor to enter or be on the school’s premises if their behaviour while they were previously on the school’s premises was unacceptable. The withdrawal of the “implied permission” will be effective as soon as the parent or other visitor has been informed in writing. The full procedure that the school will follow is outlined in further detail below.

Once the “implied permission” has been withdrawn, the school are within their rights to request the police to remove the parent or visitor if they appear on the school’s premises. If the parent or visitor causes a nuisance or disturbance while they are on the school’s premises, they may also be prosecuted in the criminal courts under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996, be liable to pay a fine of up to £500 and have a criminal conviction recorded against them.

Where a parent has had their “implied permission” to enter and be on the school’s premises withdrawn, the school will, as appropriate, make alternative arrangements for the parent’s children to be dropped off and collected from the school, and in relation to parents’ evenings and other meetings.

VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

We expect visitors to:

- Understand that both teachers and parents/carers 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.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise cause conflict, aggression or compromise safety.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.

TYPES OF UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

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

- Disruptive behaviour or disorderly conduct which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of any area of the school site.
- Using loud/or offensive language, attempting to physically intimidate, use of aggressive hand gestures or displaying temper.
- Threatening a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications.
- Defamation of the school or staff character on social networking sites.
- The use of physical aggression towards an adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child because of their actions towards your own children.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs on school premises.
- Dogs being brought onto the school site, with the exception of assistance dogs.

We thank our visitors for observing this and appreciate the respect that is shown to staff by the vast majority of parents. However, in a very small minority of cases, the behaviour of a few parents can cause disruption, resulting in abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff, other parents or visitors. This will not be tolerated.

All members of the school community have a right to expect that their school is a safe place. If the parent's behaviour is unreasonable, permission for them to be on the school premises may be withdrawn and they will become a trespasser.