

Sutton-on-Trent Primary and Nursery School



Parent Code of Conduct Policy

Compiled by	Mrs J Hutchinson
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Introduction

Sutton-on-Trent Primary and Nursery School is committed to providing an environment that nurtures the development of the whole child. Beyond the academic curriculum we also provide opportunities for children to learn and demonstrate fundamental human values – tolerance, empathy, compassion and resilience.

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers, and the school community. As a partnership, our parents/carers will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers, and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so that we can continue to flourish, progress, and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. This policy runs in conjunction with the Staff Code of Conduct and School Behaviour Policy.

Guidance (where the word “parent” is used this refers to any person caring for a pupil in our school)

We expect parents, carers, and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school
- Understand that teachers and parents 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 a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child’s behaviour - especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour, or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.

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

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee’s office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches.
- Using offensive language, swearing or displaying temper, both in conversation or aimed at another person.
- Threatening or intimidating another member of the school community.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails, messages, or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff on social networking sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Class Teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, (in that order) so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.

- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking /Vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property, (unless alcohol has been provided as part of an event outside school hours)
- Dogs being brought on to school premises. (other than guide dogs).

Breaching the Code of Conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the parent (See Appendix 1)
- Invite the parent into school to meet with the Headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the local authority's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site.

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

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 school. 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.

Appendix 1 – Model Letters

Warning

Dear

I have received a report about your conduct at the school on *(enter date and time or details)*. This appears to fall short of the behaviour we would expect of a parent/carer of a pupil at Sutton-on-Trent Primary and Nursery School, as detailed in the Parent Code of Conduct Policy.

(Add factual summary of the incident and of its effect on staff, pupils, and other parents.)

I must inform you that the school will not tolerate any form of aggression towards members of our community and will act to protect its staff and pupils from any form of abuse or intimidation. I should warn you that any future conduct of this nature could result in the school imposing conditions restricting your access to the school or banning you from contacting or attending the school altogether.

I wish to give you an opportunity to give me, in writing, any comments or observations of your own in relation to the report which I have received about your conduct. Please do so within 10 school (working) days of the date of this letter. These comments may include any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct. There is then an option for us to meet to discuss the situation and how it can be avoided in the future.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher