



**Nurturing to Learn**

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

## Rationale

**Aims:** At Elms School we believe staff, parents, carers, visitors and children are entitled to

- Learn and work in a safe and protective environment
- Be treated with respect by all members of the school community.

Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the School.

## Expectations

Members of our community are welcomed into the School and its grounds throughout the year. We expect all adults to 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.

**Guidelines:** It is the School's expectation that all adults will:

- Speak positively and politely to all community members including children
- Use the school procedures to manage any concerns or difficulties
- Use the grounds appropriately, including supervision of visiting siblings to keep them safe and minimise disruption to learning in the School.

**The school and its grounds is a zero tolerance zone regarding smoking, alcohol, drugs and pets.**

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

- 🌳 Shouting, either in person, over the telephone, text and/or email;
- 🌳 Inappropriate posting on social networking sites which could bring the School into disrepute or be deemed as bullying;
- 🌳 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;
- 🌳 Pushing;
- 🌳 Hitting e.g. slapping, punching or kicking;
- 🌳 Spitting;
- 🌳 Racist or sexist comments including sexual innuendo; and,
- 🌳 Being on site under the influence of alcohol/illegal substances.

This list seeks to provide illustrations of unacceptable choices, but is not an exhaustive list.

Elms School believes that no members of staff, parents or children should be the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on 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.**

In the event of expectations not being met, the School reserves the right to use the following legislation:

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

School premises are private property and parents/carers 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.

Any parent who is asked to leave the School premises has the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors.

#### **Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites:**

Nowadays, Social media websites are sometimes used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff and, in some cases, other parents/pupils.

The Governors of Elms School consider 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.

Please talk to us first, so that any concerns you may have can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. We are here to listen and you can speak to your child's teacher, teaching assistant or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, including the Headteacher, about anything that is causing concern. Our Complaints Policy describes the procedure to follow in more detail and is available on the school's website.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in Elms 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 these. 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.

Any incident of cyber bullying and the use by one child or parent to publicly humiliate or threaten another by inappropriate social network entry, will be dealt with as a serious incident of bullying.

**Unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed.**

#### **Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors to monitor and review this policy.

