



Coniston Primary School

Aspiration, excellence, no excuses & unity

COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Coniston Primary School is very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents¹ recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents 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.

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 we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of the school, its vision and its values.
- Understand that staff 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 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 own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school (and the right member of staff) to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to address children's behaviour.

¹ For parent, read: parent, carer, family member or any other person with parental responsibility and/or people attending school events.

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 or school events. (See Appendix 1.)
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language, displaying temper, harassment or intimidating behaviour to all staff.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carers or pupil regardless of whether the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive, excessive, disproportionate or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites. (See Appendix 2). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or a relevant member of the governing body, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss a concern or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards your child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on or near school property.
- Dogs (other than guide dogs) or other animals being brought on to school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises or via any form of communication the school may feel it is necessary to:

- End the conversation through walking away or hanging up the phone. Staff will then report the incident
- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Contact the appropriate authorities, including the police

- Seek advice from South Gloucestershire legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the offending person from entering the school grounds. In the unlikely event that a ban is enforced, the offending person will be informed, in writing, of the reason for the ban and the period of time it will be in place.
- The school may also block emails should they breach our code of conduct.

The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher. The Headteacher will consult with South Gloucestershire legal team and the Chair of Governors before banning a parent from the school site.

We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Code of conduct at sporting or other school events

- Parents, spectators and participants should understand that their behaviour represents that of the School.
- Parents, spectators and participants should respect all people involved in the fixture / tournament / competition / event.
- Parents and spectators should celebrate excellent play on the part of all teams and enjoy the sport that is on display.
- During sporting events parents, spectators and participants must not address the match officials, players, staff or other spectators in a negative way.
- If parents or spectators wish to make a complaint, then they must do so to their child's school, using their complaints procedures. They must not contact the opponent's school, the organising body or other constituent bodies.
- Parents and spectators must understand that they are guests at a fixture or school event and if they cannot behave in an appropriate way they will be asked to leave.

Appendix 2

Inappropriate use of Social Media

- Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, governors, and in some cases other parents/pupils. Coniston Primary 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.
- Any concerns parents may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or a relevant governor 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/ren 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, and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.
- All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report content or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent 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 entries. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are rare.