



DOWNSVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acceptable Behaviour and Conduct of Parents

Originator: Meghan Pugh
Reviewed: December 2024
3 Years

Acceptable Behaviour and Conduct of Parents

At Downsview Primary and Nursery School, we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents/carers whose strong relationships we value. Together this helps us achieve the very best for our children in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership between parents and carers, class teachers and the whole school community.

As a Tri-partnership, we all understand the importance of having a good working relationship to equip the children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, the school continually welcomes and encourages parents and carers to participate fully in the life of Downsview.

To truly create the best outcomes for children it requires the relationship between home and school to be based on our values of love, cooperation, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that a child is safe and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about our expectations. This is so we can continue to drive the vision of creating a safe, happy and respectful learning environment where every child is encouraged to aspire to reach their potential.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement and holding the above principles in mind, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect and model the caring ethos of our school whenever on school premises or when communicating directly with the school.
- Ensure that any approach to school staff for help in resolving issues of concern is done in an appropriate manner: the parent's first point of contact will usually be with their child's class teacher.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit for all the children.
- Ensure that all members of the school community are treated with respect and therefore set a good example through their own verbal and written communication with the school and behaviour when on the school site.
- Work with the school to clarify a child's version of events, in order to bring about a peaceful and appropriate solution to an issue.
- Correct their own child's actions, especially where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off school premises.

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

- Using loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing or displaying temper anywhere on school premises.
- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with 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 at whole school events.
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, local advisor, visitor, fellow parent, carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.

- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Abusive or threatening voicemail, phone calls, email, text or any other written or verbal communication.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child and/or parent, in order to discuss / chastise them regarding an incident that may have taken place during school, (such an approach towards a child or their parent may be seen to be an assault and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking (traditional or electronic cigarettes), taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on the school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/carers/staff at the school on Facebook or other social networking sites such as change.org and WhatsApp.

Inappropriate Use of Social Media

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns or petitions and complaints against schools or to share inappropriate information, e.g. naming children involved in incidences, sharing confidential information regarding an aspect of school life, making allegations or accusations or sharing false news. Downsview Primary School considers the use of social media websites or Apps in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Class Teacher, the Leadership Team or the Headteacher, so that they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively in line with the school's policies and procedures for handling concerns.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated at Downsview Primary and Nursery School is found to be posting libelous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites or apps, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social media network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on their sites and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. 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. 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 entry. We will take and deal with any such case as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully, such incidents are extremely rare.

We would expect that parents make all persons responsible for dropping off and/or collecting children from the school are aware of this Code of Conduct.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks this Code of Conduct?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of the school breaking this Code, then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

In cases where the Code of Conduct has been broken but the breach was not libelous, slanderous or of a criminal nature, then the school will consider an appropriate action on a case by case basis.

This may include and in no particular order:

- An informal letter warning the adult/s about their behaviour and reminding them of this Code of Conduct and Home School Agreement.
- An informal telephone call warning the adult/s about their behavior and reminding them of this Code of Conduct and Home School Agreement.
- A more formal letter to the adult/s to invite them to a meeting to discuss their behaviour and reminding them of this Code of Conduct and Home School Agreement.
- Either an informal telephone call/conversation warning the adult/s about their behaviour or a more formal letter to the adult/s to invite them to a meeting to discuss their behaviour and reminding them of this Code of Conduct. If the adult/s refuses to attend the meeting, then the school will write to the adult/s and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that, if they do not, they may be banned from the school premises.
- If a staff member feels that they are being disrespected, they will end the conversation or meeting and ask the parent to return once they are able to speak in a respectful manner. The decision to end a conversation or meeting lies with the staff member alone and is final.
- If a staff member asks a parent to end the conversation, yet they continue with the conversation, the parent will be asked to leave the premises and the police may be called if they fail to do as instructed.
- In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will, in the first instance, be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, member of staff or governor in the school. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as insulting social media posts or any form of social media cyber bullying.
- In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the Local Authority's Legal Team for further action.

If for any reason the adult/s behaviour continues, then they may be written to and informed that a ban is in place.

Note: (1) in some cases, if the Headteacher deems that it is in the best interests of the person harmed by the unacceptable behaviour, a temporary ban may need to be issued until a further investigation can be conducted. (2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance.

Thank you for abiding by this Code of Conduct in our school. Together we can create a positive and inspirational environment, not only for the children but also for all who work in and visit our school.