

The Children's Garden

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

We are very proud and fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, teachers and the kindergarten 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.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However, we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the kindergarten's complaints procedure. This is available on the kindergarten website, or a copy can be requested from the teacher/manager.

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 kindergarten about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

GUIDANCE

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our kindergarten.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the kindergarten 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 kindergarten'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 lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour, or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the kindergarten to help resolve any issues of concern.

To support a peaceful and safe kindergarten environment the kindergarten cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of any area of the kindergarten.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of staff, trustees, visitors, fellow parent/carer, or children regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying kindergarten property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the kindergarten or any of the children/parent/staff, at the kindergarten on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the kindergarten must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the teacher 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 and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on kindergarten premises.
- Dogs being brought on to kindergarten premises (other than guide dogs).

Should any of the above behaviour occur on kindergarten premises, the kindergarten may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

Note:

(1) a ban from the kindergarten can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

(2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance.

Appendix 1: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, principals, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The Trustees 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 kindergarten community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the teacher so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately, and effectively for all concerned.

If any child or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the kindergarten are 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 content or activity which breaches this. The kindergarten will also expect that any parent/carer or student removes such comments immediately. In serious cases the kindergarten will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, there 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 this and deal with this as a serious incident of kindergarten bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare. We would expect that parents make all persons responsible for collecting their children also aware of this policy.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, trustees, children or other parents
- Bringing the kindergarten into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails, posters or letters circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge kindergarten policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching the kindergarten's security procedures

We trust that parents and carers will assist our kindergarten with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the Parent, Carer and Visitor at The Children's Garden.

Policy issue date: August 2021

To be reviewed; August 2022