

Review date: September 2023
Next review date: September 2024
Responsibility: MW

Bishop Challoner School



Parental Code of Conduct Policy



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Aims of the Policy

Bishop Challoner School is dedicated to ensuring that all pupils achieve their potential and will work in partnership with parents and carers to achieve this aim.

The school also has a duty of care for both staff and pupils to ensure their safety and well-being and will not tolerate unacceptable parental behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the good order and safety of the school. This policy outlines the school's expectations as to how parents and carers conduct themselves and behave whilst on school grounds, the standards that parents and carers are expected to maintain when interacting with staff, pupils and other parents and the potential consequences of behaviour that the school finds unacceptable.

The principles in this policy also apply to any other family members of pupils or other visitors to the school.

This policy covers conduct and behaviour whilst on school grounds and also in respect of communications by parents, carers or family members with the school by telephone, letter and email.

This policy is intended as a general guide and does not address every situation that may arise.

This policy does not affect the right of parents/carers or other parties to make complaints to the school and this policy should be read in conjunction with the school's complaints policy.

Unacceptable conduct

The school expects high standards of behaviour from parents, carers and family members of pupils when on school grounds at all times and whenever communicating with the school. The following behaviours are considered unacceptable by the school:

- swearing or the use of other abusive, offensive or threatening language
- intimidation
- aggressive or disruptive behaviour
- threatening violence or acting violently, including damage to property or injury to individuals
- racist, sexist or other discriminatory conduct
- behaving in a way which makes others feel distressed, humiliated or threatened
- wearing revealing clothing or clothing with offensive language on
- consumption of alcohol (unless provided as part of a school function), smoking or use of illegal drugs on the school grounds
- frequent, unwarranted and/or unnecessary correspondence which is hindering the proper running of the school
- pursuing complaints in an unreasonable manner, including but not limited to, failing to properly follow the school's complaints policy
- unreasonable demands being placed on staff to respond to unrealistic deadlines
- making deliberately false, malicious or vexatious accusations about the school or any staff member
- recording a meeting or conversation without acknowledgment
- incitement of others to do any of the above

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

Interaction with staff and other parents

Parents, carers and family members of pupils are expected to interact civilly with staff members, other parents, other carers and pupils at all times.

Comments posted by Parents/Carers on Social Media Sites

Parents/carers will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding their use of social media via this policy (in particular when their child joins the school), the school website, letter and Challoner News.

- Parents are asked not to post images (photos and videos) of pupils other than their own children on social media sites unless they have permission of parents of children pictured
- Parents are asked to raise queries, concerns or complaints directly with the school rather than posting them on social media
- Parents should not post malicious or fictitious comments on social media sites about any member of the school community
- Parents should not air their complaint or grievance on social media and use appropriate channels of communication with the school

Procedures

The school has a range of strategies to employ with any parent who engages in unacceptable conduct. Whilst these sanctions are set out in this policy by way of a sequential process, they can be initiated at any stage if, in the reasonable judgement of the Headteacher of the school or the Trustees, the severity of the behaviour warrants such a level of intervention.

Where the behaviour is so extreme that it threatens the immediate safety and welfare of staff or others, the matter will be referred immediately to the police for action and the children will be immediately withdrawn from the school.

Verbal warning

A parent who displays any of the behaviour described above may be asked to desist.

Mediation meeting

Where appropriate, the parent may be asked to meet with the Headteacher and/or Trustees to discuss the matter in person.

Formal written warning(s)

Formal written warning(s) may be sent to the parent by letter to their home address. Any letters sent will be circulated to relevant internal parties to ensure that an informed and consistent approach can be adopted. Any letters sent will be kept on the pupil's school file for a period of twelve months.

Ban from school grounds

In cases of serious or repeated misconduct, the school may take steps to ban a parent, carer or family member from entry to school grounds and may, where appropriate, involve the authorities.

Termination of Parental Agreement

In cases of serious or repeated misconduct the school may terminate the Parental Agreement between the school and the parent and demand that their child be withdrawn from the school.

Legal sanctions

Legal sanctions will be used in extreme circumstances, e.g. if a parent continues to exhibit conduct in breach of this policy or has committed a serious breach of this policy. It may include the school taking steps to obtain an injunction requiring the parent or carer to desist from behaving in the manner in question.

Reviewed by: M Wallace

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