

ACORN TRUST CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS



At the schools within the Acorn Trust we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents/guardians recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, guardians, 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/guardians to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this statement is to provide a reminder to all parents, guardians 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.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our school's Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, guardians and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our schools
- Understand that both teachers 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 the way they talk and in their own behaviour.
- Be willing to listen to both their child and the school regarding a situation or concern in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Have high expectation of their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behavior.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environments the Acorn Trust cannot tolerate parents, guardians and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which goes against the ethos of the school and disrupts the smooth running of a classroom, school offices, reception area of the building or any other area of the school grounds including sporting events.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication on social media (see appendix1)
- The use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Please be aware that such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises (with the exception of guide dogs)

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary the offending adult may not be permitted onto school grounds until a change in their behavior can be guaranteed.

We know that parents and guardians will also want our schools to run safely and happily and as such will support us with the implementation of this policy. We thank you for your continuing support of the Acorn Trust and the schools within it.

Appendix 1

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils.

The Directors of the Acorn Trust considers 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 you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/guardian of a child being educated in any of the schools within the Acorn Trust 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 this. The Trust will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the Trust 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 this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are rare.

We would expect that parents/guardians would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

BE CYBER SMART

- * Think twice about what you say and post.
- * Remember it is forever.
- * Posts on the internet can remain there for a long time and might be read by future employers, partners and even your child's teacher
- * Respect your friends. Be a good friend, and treat them as you would like to be treated.