

Parent code of conduct

Middle Barton School



Approved by:

Kim Griffin (Headteacher)

Date: 23.11.2023

Last reviewed on:

23/11/2023

Next review due by:

Feb 2025

Contents

1. Purpose and scope.
2. Our expectations of parents and carers.
3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated.
4. Breaching the code of conduct

Appendix 1: model letters.

Initial warning letter from the headteacher

Model letter banning a parent from the school site.

1. Purpose and scope

At Middle Barton School, we believe it's important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils at all times and the school's values of Compassion, Respect and Integrity.

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents/carers' to refer to:

Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil

Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school

Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils

Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour

Seek a peaceful solution to all issues

Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct

Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

Understand and respect that staff will deal with issues/incidents between children in accordance with the school's anti-bullying and behaviour policy and using their professional judgement

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)

Swearing, or using offensive language

Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents

Threatening another member of the school community

Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media

Posting defamatory, offensive, inappropriate, derogatory or confidential comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms

Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises

Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult

Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention

Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)

Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)

Bringing dogs or other animals onto the school premises (other than guide dogs or those permitted by the Headteacher with a risk assessment in place)

4. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

Invite the parent in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher

Send a warning letter to the parent

Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour or if this is a Safeguarding incident)

Seek advice regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)

Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the headteacher.

The headteacher will consult the chair of governors before banning a parent from the school site.

Appendix 1:

Initial warning letter from the headteacher

Dear [parent name],

I've received a report about your conduct on [time and date].

[Summary of incident, include location, its effect on staff, pupils and other parents.]

If the incident is minor, add:

This behaviour is not in keeping with our parent code of conduct. [Please find a copy attached to this letter.]

If the incident is more serious, add:

As written in our parent code of conduct, we do not tolerate this kind of behaviour in our school. [Please find a copy attached to this letter.]

We believe that all staff, pupils and parents are entitled to a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, and that parents are as responsible for creating this environment as school staff.

Continue with:

Further breaches of the code of conduct may result in a ban from the school premises.

If you want to invite the parent in for a meeting, add:

I'd like to invite you into school to discuss this incident, and how we can work together to prevent similar issues in the future.

Please contact the school office on [phone number] to book an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Model letter banning a parent from the school site

Dear [parent name],

I am writing to inform you that, after consultation with the chair of governors, I am banning you from the school site until [date].

You can also choose to ban a parent permanently. In that case, amend the sentence above.

Despite previous correspondence and conversations about your conduct, there have been further breaches of our parent code of conduct.

[Include details of the incidents, including dates, locations and effects on staff/pupils/other parents for every relevant incident.]

If you do not comply with the ban, I will arrange for you to be removed from the grounds and you may be prosecuted under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

If you would like to raise a complaint, you can do so using the school's complaints procedures, which are available on our website.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher