

# Rothersthorpe CE Primary School



## Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers & Visitors

At Rothersthorpe CE Primary School we are very fortunate to have a very supportive and friendly community. Our Ofsted report in November 2013 and parent feedback surveys in November 2013 & 2014 recognised that we have excellent relationships with our parents.

Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers, and the school community. As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of ensuring a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents /carers to participate fully in the life of our school and community.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

### **We expect parents, carers and visitors to:**

- Respect the friendly and caring ethos of our school.
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of the children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and understanding, and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a successful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive, or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.

### **In order to support a friendly and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:**

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, hall, office area or any other area of the school grounds.
- Abusive, threatening or intimidating behaviour. This includes using loud or offensive language, swearing, derogatory comments, accusations, defamation, personal insults, anger and intimidating/aggressive body language.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carers 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 or typed communication.

- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff, at the school on Facebook or any other social sites. (*See Appendix 1*). Any concerns you may have about the school 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.
- 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 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 school property.
- Dogs should not be brought on to the school premises.

Inevitably there are occasions where parents may be unhappy or upset about something that may have occurred in school, and want to discuss it.

In most cases, complainants are helpful, polite and patient, and they give us time to sort out whatever has happened so that everyone has been listened to and the problem is resolved. However if the behaviour of a complainant makes investigating and resolving a complaint difficult, or they behave in a way that is unacceptable or inappropriate we will ask the complainant to desist from the behaviour, and/or leave the school premises or site. In instances where a complainant refuses to leave when asked and their behaviour is still causing distress, the police may be called.

Should **any** of the behaviours in this Code of Conduct occur, the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult from entering the school premises/site. This is essential in protecting staff and allowing them to do their job, as well as protecting children from witnessing inappropriate behaviour by adults.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will assist our school with the implementation of this Code of Conduct and we thank you for your continuing support of our school.

**Agreed by: Headteacher and Governors October 2015**

Headteacher Mrs. Nicola Fountain

Chair of Governors – Mrs. Fiona Newitt

## **Rothersthorpe CE Primary School Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers & Visitors**

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The Governors of Rothersthorpe CE Primary School 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 Headteacher 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/carer of a child/ren being educated at Rothersthorpe CE Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments or images 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 school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments or images 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 this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this Code of Conduct.