

Parent Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

At Deptford Green 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 students, staff, and parents.
- › Model appropriate behaviour for our students at all times.

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 students (through our behaviour policy).

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

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- › Anyone with parental responsibility for a student.
- › 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 students.
- › 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.
- › Any concerns or complaints about staff should be communicated to Ms Thurston (Headteacher) or Ms Stanghon (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Acting Deputy Headteacher).

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- › Swearing, or using offensive language.
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, students or other parents.
- › Threatening another member of the school community.
- › Parents and guardians secretly or without consent record (audio or video) any meeting, conversation, or interaction involving members of the school community, including staff, students, or other parents.
- › Approaching Deptford Green School students to attempt to resolve issues, rather than contacting the school.
- › Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email, or social media.

- Posting defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms.
- Use of physical punishment against your child.
- 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, drinking alcohol or possessing and taking drugs on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)
- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Racist, sexist or any other discriminatory comments including sexual innuendo

This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of such behaviour.

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 into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher.
- Provide a warning letter to the parent, which will explain that if there is a further breach of the code of conduct then the parent may be banned from the premises for a period of time or indefinitely, subject to review as defined in section 547 of the Education Act (1966)
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour).
- In cases of an extreme breach of the code of conduct the school may ban the parent from the school premises or for a period of time or indefinitely, subject to review as defined in section 547 of the Education Act (1966), therefore bypassing a warning.

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 premises.

Appendix 1: model letters

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, students and other parents.]

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, students 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 in to 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/students/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