

Parent and Carer Code of Conduct



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Date:	April 2025
Review Date:	April 2026
Ratified by:	Date: 01/04/2025
On behalf of:	Local Governing Body

Introduction

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent and carer body. Our parents and carers recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents and carers, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents and carers 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 and carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear expectations to all parents, carers, and visitors to our school about the expected conduct, and what is and is not acceptable. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress, and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

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 to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour, or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

To support a peaceful 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, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches.
- 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/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 communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/carers/staff, at the school on social media. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels through the complaints policy so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child 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 being brought on to school premises that are not carried or 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, even ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises Section 547 of the Education Act 1996

School premises are private property and parents/carers have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents/carers, the school may ban parents/carers from entering school. It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned. School is not responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents/carers will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

Social Media Usage (including Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp)

The Local Governing Body consider that any use of social media which goes against the school's expectations and ethos to be unacceptable, particularly where social media is not used in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels through the complaints policy, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately, and effectively for all concerned.

If any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the school is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on social media, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site, if available. 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 school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social media 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/carers would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Parents/carers should adhere to the following guidelines when using closed class/year-group WhatsApp or Facebook groups:

- The group should never be used as a platform to air views/grievances regarding a teacher, child or parent/carer in the class or school
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs
- The group should be used keeping in mind mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between all its members

Please note, the school considers the following online activity inappropriate:

- Abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or other parents/carers or any member of the school's community
- Displays of anger including swearing, or using offensive language
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting aggressive, defamatory, or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff, pupils or any member of the schools' community
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language

The school takes safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately.

Raising Concerns

If you are concerned about inappropriate comments on a class/year-group WhatsApp/Facebook group, in confidence, please contact our Senior Leadership Team by emailing the school admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the code of conduct detailed above, 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:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from our legal team 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.

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