



## **PARENTS' / CARERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

*To learn with respect and belief, to challenge, create and dream!*

Kempsey Primary School is proud to be a caring school that aims to create a safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment in which every individual has the opportunity to be fulfilled and achieve the very best outcomes. The school runs on core principles that include liberty, respect, and tolerance.

### **Code of Conduct**

At Kempsey Primary School we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us achieve the very best for our children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents/carers, staff and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip their children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, we continually welcome and encourage parents or carers to participate fully in the life of our school, and to engage with their child/ren's education.

Creating the best outcomes for children requires the relationship between home and school to be based on the principles of care, integrity, trust and mutual respect. The maintenance of this relationship is important to ensure that all within the school community are safe (please read our Safeguarding Policy) and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

### **Respect and Concern for Others and their Rights**

In order that all are able to continue to flourish, progress and achieve, we expect parents, carers and visitors to show respect and concern for others by:

- supporting the respectful and caring ethos of the school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards **all** members of the school community
- working together with teachers for the benefit of all our children. This includes approaching the school in a positive manner to resolve any issues of concern and calmly to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution
- seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's views in order to reach a peaceful solution to any issue
- correcting their own child's behaviour appropriately, especially where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe behaviour – both on and off school premises
- using other strategies rather than using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour
- respecting the school environment, including keeping the school tidy by not littering
- following the parking rules and doing the right thing when delivering and collecting children from school

**In order to support a peaceful and safe environment Kempsey School cannot and will not tolerate:**

- any inappropriate behaviour on school premises, including racist or intolerant behaviours (please note all schools have statutory duties under the Prevent agenda; section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)



- disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office or other area of school grounds
- the use of loud or offensive language, swearing, cursing, or displaying temper
- threats of doing harm or using physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child, in order to discuss or chastise them and physical punishment against their own child on school premises. (Some actions may constitute an assault with legal consequences.)
- damaging or destroying school property
- abusive or threatening emails/texts/voicemail/phone messages or other communication
- using social networking sites or any social media to single out individuals or to distribute untruthful or malicious information or comments
- defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupil/parents/staff at the school. Any concerns you have should be raised through the appropriate channels (see below).
- smoking, or consuming alcohol or drugs on school property (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- bringing dogs on to school premises (other than support and therapy dogs with the prior agreement of the headteacher)

Should any of the above occur on school premises the school may feel it necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or sadly, consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises. Please note that staff members may seek colleagues as witnesses, and/or to take notes of discussions if they are concerned about the tone or intent.

The intention of this policy is **not** to deter parents or carers from raising legitimate concerns with the school. School staff are **always** willing to discuss children's progress, issues that may be affecting their education and positive views on how the school can continue to improve. These should be raised in the appropriate way through discussions with the class teacher, senior leadership team, head teacher or governors.

This policy specifically acknowledges that there are occasions when complainants would like to raise their concerns formally. In those cases, the school's formal procedures should be invoked through the stages outlined within the complaints policy; available on the school website.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we can create a positive and uplifting environment not only for our children but also all who work in and visit our school.

Note: Could parents please ensure they make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.



## Appendix 1

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

Social media websites are, most unfortunately, being used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, school staff, other parents/carers and even pupils across the country.

The Department for Education/Government and Governors of Kempsey Primary School consider the use of social media websites in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have about the school or your child/children must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, where they will be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

### **Libellous or Defamatory posts**

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children at Kempsey school 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 school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

Section 1 of the Defamation Act 2013 says that an individual is guilty of an offence where he/she publishes a statement that causes, or is likely to cause, serious harm to the reputation of the individual and an online comment might be regarded as defamatory if it is directly about, or refers to, an individual who may be easily identified.

### **Cyber Bullying**

We take very seriously the use of cyber bullying 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.

**In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse on social networking and other sites.**

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school, which will ensure that, together, we create a positive and safe environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.