

Parent Code of Conduct

At St Buryan Academy we are extremely fortunate and proud to have such a supportive and friendly parent body, who recognise that educating children effectively is a process that involves partnership between families, staff and the wider school community.

As partners, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to support their child's learning and create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents. For these reasons we welcome and actively encourage parents to participate fully in the life of our school.

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour and expected conduct. The purpose of this document and the clarity it provides is to best enable the school to flourish, progress and achieve in a positive atmosphere of mutual understanding

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

Our expectations of parents and carers:

As well as following our Home School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect and model the caring ethos, vision and values of our school whenever on school premises or when communicating directly with the school.
- Understand that school staff and parents need to work together for the benefit of all
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with tolerance and respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech, conduct and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view, in order to bring about a reasoned and logical solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care) especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues or concern.
 - The first point of call is always your child's class teacher as they are best placed and informed to provide assist you.
 - If your concern is regarding Special Educational Needs (SEND) or is linked in any way to SEND, please contact Mrs Joanna Kwiatkowska (joannak@stburyanacademy.org)
 - If your concern is regarding teaching and learning, or any other matter, please contact Mr Josh McDonald (head@stburyanacademy.org)

To support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate the following from parents and visitors:

- Disturbing school staff and trying to speak to them whilst they are supervising children.
- Entering the school during the school day anywhere other than via the school reception.
- 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, aggressive or offensive language (swearing, cursing, using profane language) or displaying temper.
- In any way threatening harm to a member of school staff, Governors, visitors, fellow parents or pupils.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Threatening another member of the school community.
- Abusive, persistent or threatening e-mails or text, voicemail, phone messages or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any member of its community on Facebook or other social sites (see additional advice regarding social media below). Any concerns you may have about the school 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.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment against your own child while on school premises.
- Making recordings of any variety (videoing, photographing, audio recording) on the school site **(parents and carers should not use their phones inside the school gates unless permission has been granted)**

- Approaching someone else's child to discuss the actions of this child towards their own child.
- Smoking and/or the consumption of alcohol (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event) or other drugs (or being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs) whilst on school property.
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

Should **any** of the above occur on St Buryan premises, the school will consider which appropriate action to take in line with the **Managing Aggressive behaviour from parents and visitors to our school policy** and whether it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities.

Inappropriate use of social media

While social media websites are often used extremely positively by the whole school community, there is increased evidence of social media being used inappropriately:

- fuelling campaigns and complaints against schools
- sharing inappropriate information, eg naming children involved in incidents
- sharing confidential information regarding an aspect of school life
- making allegations or accusations
- sharing false news

St Buryan School considers the use of any social media websites or Apps in this way unacceptable - ***it is not in the best interests of the children or school community***. We recognise that there will be instances when concerns need to be raised with the school and where this is the case, these must be made through the appropriate channels eg speaking to the class teacher, contacting the leadership team or the Headteacher. This is an essential requirement if we are to ensure any such concerns are dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

If any pupil or parent of a child being educated at St Buryan School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites or apps, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. All social network sites have clear rules about the content that can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity in breach of these rules. The school will also expect any parent or pupil to remove such comments immediately.

In serious cases, the school may be forced to consider its legal options to deal with misuse of social networking and other sites.

In addition to this, the school takes the issue of cyber bullying very seriously, specifically in relation to inappropriate use of social media by a child or parent, to publicly humiliate, upset or degrade another member of the school community.

We are proud to say that all of the above incidents are extremely rare. However, in light of a few specific recent incidents we feel this code of conduct represents a fair and reasonable expectation of adults accessing the school and appropriate, proportionate reassurance for staff and all of the school community who continue to access the school so positively.

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:

- Send a warning letter to the parent
- Invite the parent into school to meet with a senior member of staff or the headteacher
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the Trust's 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.

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

We trust that our amazing school community and families will assist fully with the implementation of this code of conduct and ask that families make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of its content.

Thank you for your continued support and positivity.