



# Orchard Partnership Academies Parents Code of Conduct Policy



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Mr Alex Davies

# Parents' Code of Conduct

## Background

Orchard Partnership Academies is a caring group of school which aims to create a stimulating learning environment in which every individual has the opportunity to be the best they can be. Learning is a collaborative process.

At our academies we value our strong relationship with parents and carers. Together this helps us achieve the very best for the children in a mutually supportive partnership between parents, class teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and the whole school community.

As a partnership, our parents should 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.

Truly 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 children are safe (please read our Child Protection & Safeguarding policy) and not open to undue distress and anxiety.

## Aims

The aim of this Code is to make parents aware of the expectation by Governors that they should:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of the school
- Work together with teachers for the benefit of their children.
- Approach school staff for help to resolve an issue is done in an **appropriate manner**.
- Treat **all** members of the school community with **respect** by using **appropriate language** and **behaviour**.
- Show understanding that school needs to work with a child in order to clarify their version of events in order to bring about an appropriate solution to an issue.
- Correct their child's actions especially where it could lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour – both on and off the school premises.
- Use other strategies rather than using 'staff' as threats to admonish their children's behaviour.

## Principles

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's processes or activities anywhere on the school premises or grounds.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises/grounds or whilst at school events.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper (including lack of restraint).
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property.

- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school (or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school) on Facebook or other social sites.
- The use of physical or verbal 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. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be a form of assault and may have legal consequences).

Should **any** of the above occur on school premises (as well as on social media off-site) the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or banning the offending adult from entering the school premises. Staff also reserve the right- on the grounds detailed above- to cancel or stop meetings with parents as well as the right not to correspond with them in person.

### **E-Safety: Inappropriate use of Social Network Site**

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents or pupils.

The Department for Education/Government and Governors considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable. 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.

### **E-Safety: Libellous or Defamatory posts**

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/children 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.

### **E-Safety: 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.

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

## **Religious Bigotry and Discriminatory Behaviour**

We have a responsibility to model respect and tolerance towards people from different backgrounds, life choices, belief systems and cultures.

As a Church of England Academy, we also have a responsibility to ensure that we promote open-mindedness and tolerance towards people of different faiths and none.

## **Open Door Approach: Clarification**

We are proud of our welcoming, family-orientated, “open-door” approach, where we encourage parents/carers to see staff if there are any issues or problems.

Understandably, an open-door approach does not mean that parents have the right to demand or expect to see teachers whenever they wish. Respectfully, we ask that parents and carers come to the school office to check the availability of a staff member. As always, staff will make time speak to parents as early as possible at a *mutually convenient* moment.

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

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