



Parent code of conduct
September 2023

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1. Purpose and scope

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

At Penair 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 pupils, staff and parents
- › Model appropriate behaviour for our pupils 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 pupils (through our behaviour policy and our daily emphasis on pupils being ready, respectful and safe).

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

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)

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 pupils
- › 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 (see 'Who to contact September 2023')

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- › Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)

- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening another member of the school community
- › 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 while on school premises
- › 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 or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- › Possessing or taking drugs

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The school considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns you may have 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.

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:

- › 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.