



**Woodchester Endowed Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

**‘Love, Learn and Flourish Together’**

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

# **Parent Code of Conduct**

## **October 2024**

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Written by:</b>            | <b>Lynne Loomes (Headteacher)</b> |
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*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many’ (1 Corinthians 12; 14-16)*

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# Rationale

Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School community seeks to inspire children and adults to 'Love, Learn and Flourish Together' so that we may become everything God has created us to be.

Our Christian vision is rooted in the desire to nurture the whole community. This Christian vision recognises that we are unique individuals, loved by God. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education for our children to enable them to realise their full potential. We look to all members of our community to support us in this objective and believe that working in partnership with all ensures our children stay safe and supported in all areas of their lives.

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.

## 1. Purpose and scope

At Woodchester Endowed, 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).

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to love, learn and flourish together in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. 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)

We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

## 2. Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Understand that both parents and teachers need to work together in the best interests of our pupils

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- 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 in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public or on our site, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

### 3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

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

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Damaging or destroying school property
- 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 any social media platforms. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards any child or adult
- Approaching someone else's child in order 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 or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than 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. 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.

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## 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 local authority'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.

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## **Appendix 1: Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites and Messaging Apps**

Social media websites and messaging apps are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/students. The Governors considers the use of social media websites and messaging apps 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.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren being educated in the 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 student removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and messaging apps. 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.

### **Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises**

Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 states that school premises are private property and as such, parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises.

In case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents 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 will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.

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