

“Together in Achievement”



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS, CARERS, AND VISITORS

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Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors

In our Aspire 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 and staff. 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 welcome and encourage parents or carers to participate fully in the life of our academies.

To truly create the best outcomes for children, the relationship between home and academy needs 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 and not subject to undue distress or anxiety.

Guidance

We ask all parents, carers and visitors to ensure that all members of the academy community are treated with respect using appropriate language and behaviour.

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

- disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the academy's activities anywhere on the academy premises;
- loud, intimidating or offensive language (any form of swearing – whether directed at someone else or 'casual' – will not be tolerated);
- threatening, in any way, a member of academy staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil;
- damaging or destroying academy property;
- sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the academy community;
- defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the academy or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the academy on Facebook or other social sites (See Appendix);
- the use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on academy premises;
- approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the suspected actions of this child towards their own child;
- smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on academy premises (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events);
- dogs being brought on to academy premises (other than guide dogs).

Should **any** of the above occur on academy premises, the academy may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or consider banning the offending adult from entering the academy premises.

The process of banning a person from academy premises does not require a legal process; it is entirely at the discretion of the Headteacher of each academy, who holds responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of adults and children on academy premises. Any person who wishes to appeal against a ban will need to communicate their case in writing for the consideration of the academy's governing body.

If necessary, Aspire Headteachers will contact the police. Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 creates the offence of causing a nuisance or disturbance on school/academy premises and provides the police with a power to remove offenders. More serious offences – such as threatening a child, another parent or a member of staff – are likely to result in the offender being arrested.

Thank you for abiding by this code of conduct in our academies. Together we want to create a positive and uplifting environment; not only for the children, but for all members of the Aspire 'family'.

APPENDIX

Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against academies, Headteachers, academy staff and, in some cases, other parents or pupils. The trustees of Aspire consider the use of social media websites in this way to be wholly unacceptable. Any concerns you may have about the academy or your child must be communicated through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher and/or senior member of staff as appropriate. Aspire has a Complaints Policy which should be followed if necessary.

Libellous or Defamatory Posts

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child in an Aspire academy 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. Aspire will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately. Advice will be sought with regard to possible legal action.

Cyber Bullying

We take very seriously the issue of cyber bullying by a child or a parent/carer through inappropriate social network use. Aspire academies will consider their legal options to deal with any such misuse of social network and other sites. In serious cases, Aspire Headteachers will not hesitate to report matters to the police for further investigation in accordance with their statutory powers under, for example, the Malicious Communications Act 1988 or the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.