

# **St Paul's CE (VC) First School Coven**



## **Parent Code of Conduct**

# 1. Purpose and Scope

At St. Paul's First School, we believe it is 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 achieve this, we set clear expectations and guidelines for behaviour across our school community. This includes staff (through the Staff Code of Conduct) and pupils (through the Behaviour Policy).

This Parent Code of Conduct aims to support effective partnership working by outlining expectations for appropriate behaviour.

For the purpose of this policy, the term '*parents and carers*' refers to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil (see Appendix 1 regarding parental responsibility and family court matters)
- Anyone caring for a child (e.g. grandparents, childminders)

## 2. Working Together

We are committed to working collaboratively with parents and carers to support every child's learning and wellbeing. By following this Code of Conduct, parents and carers contribute to a positive, respectful and inclusive school community where all children can thrive.

## 3. Our Expectations of Parents and Carers

We expect all parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of the school
- Work in partnership with staff in the best interests of all pupils
- Treat all members of the school community with respect, setting a positive example through speech and behaviour
- Seek peaceful and constructive solutions to any issues
- Take responsibility for their child's behaviour, particularly in public settings
- Approach the appropriate member of staff to resolve concerns

## **4. Behaviour That Will Not Be Tolerated**

The school will not tolerate the following behaviours:

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events, trips and activities)
- Swearing or using offensive language
- Displaying aggression, shouting, or loss of temper towards staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening behaviour towards any member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages, including via email, text or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school or its community online
- Using platforms such as WhatsApp to air views/queries/questions/grievances regarding a member of school staff, child or parent in the school community.
- Using platforms such as WhatsApp to air views/queries/questions/grievances regarding school policy or procedure.
- Use of physical punishment against a child on school premises
- Aggressive behaviour (verbal or written) towards any child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child (concerns should be reported to staff)
- Smoking or consuming alcohol on school premises (unless authorised for specific events)
- Possession or use of drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto school premises (except guide dogs)
- Spitting

## **5. Incidents in the Community**

We expect parents and carers to promote positive relationships beyond the school environment and model appropriate behaviour to children.

In the event of aggressive or threatening behaviour occurring outside of school premises, parents and carers are advised to seek support from appropriate community services, including:

- Local police
- Community support officers
- Local council services

This helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individuals involved.

## **6. Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

Where the school becomes aware of a breach of this Code of Conduct, it will:

- Gather information relating to the incident
- Speak with the parent or carer involved

Depending on the severity of the incident, the school may take one or more of the following actions:

- Issue a formal warning letter
- Invite the parent/carer to a meeting with a senior leader or the Headteacher
- Contact appropriate authorities (in cases involving safeguarding or criminal behaviour)
- Seek legal advice (e.g. in cases of libel or slander)
- Restrict or ban access to the school site

The school will always act proportionately. The final decision regarding action rests with the Headteacher, who will consult with the Trust and LAC prior to any site ban.

## 7. Agreement

By choosing to have your child attend St. Paul's First School, parents and carers agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and to work in partnership with the school.

## Appendix 1: Parental Responsibility

This policy aligns with Department for Education guidance:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>
- <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>

All individuals with parental responsibility—whether resident or non-resident—have the right to:

- Receive information about their child (e.g. reports, attendance)
- Participate in school-related activities (e.g. voting in parent governor elections)
- Provide consent (e.g. for trips)
- Be informed of meetings involving their child

The school will treat all parents equally unless a court order states otherwise.

Where disagreements arise between parents:

- The school will remain neutral and act in the best interests of the child
- Staff will not mediate or become involved in disputes
- Parents may be directed to the Family Court where resolution cannot be achieved

The school will comply with any court orders but will not manage arrangements relating to residency or contact.

Court orders issued under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 may limit how parental responsibility is exercised; however, such orders do not necessarily prevent the school from fulfilling its statutory educational duties.