Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct

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Full Governors approval required	Yes
Date adopted by sub committee	July 2025
Date adopted by Full Governors	July 2025
Date of next review	July 2028

1. Introduction

At Waldegrave our students are encouraged to become confident and responsible young people. This is achieved by teaching them considerate, positive behaviour which in turn will raise their own self esteem and increase their life chances. Our school values are Enjoy, Achieve, Empower. All members of the school community, students and staff alike, have a right to expect that their school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for violence, threatening behaviour or abuse in our school. We expect parents, carers and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff and the wider school community at all times.

We understand that in some situations when working together to support children, parents and schools will have different views about what the approach should be. Usually we find that constructive dialogue leads to a shared understanding of a situation and agreement about the way forward. On very rare occasions, when parents behave inappropriately or unacceptably towards our staff we need to take steps to resolve this and this document outlines our approach to this.

This policy has been developed in line with the school Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relationships within the school community.

2. Purpose and scope

We believe that it is important to:

- Work in partnership with parents to support children's learning.
- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for students, staff and parents.
- Model appropriate behaviour for our students 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 students (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help us work in partnership with parents, carers and other visitors by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

3. Our expectations of parents, carers and other visitors

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 students.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and conduct.
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues.
- Correct their own children'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.

4. 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, students or other parents.
- Threatening another member of the school community.
- Never record conversations with members of the Waldegrave community without prior written consent of all parties and the Headteacher.
- Never photograph or film members of the Waldegrave community without prior written consent of all parties and the Headteacher.
- 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.
- Smoking, vaping or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event).
- Possessing or taking drugs on the school premises (including legal highs).
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on the school premises.
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs).

5. Breaching the code of conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that someone has breached the code of conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the person about the incident.

Depending on the nature of the incident, the school may then:

- Send a warning letter to the person.
- Invite the person 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 our legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous).
- Ban the person from the school site.

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision

about how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Headteacher. A decision to ban a parent from the school site is a very serious one but unfortunately is necessary occasionally. The headteacher will consult the Co-chairs of Governors before making such a decision. Decisions to ban are taken within the framework of the DfE Guidance and may be reviewed by the school. The letter banning the person from the school site will make clear how communications with the school can be maintained.