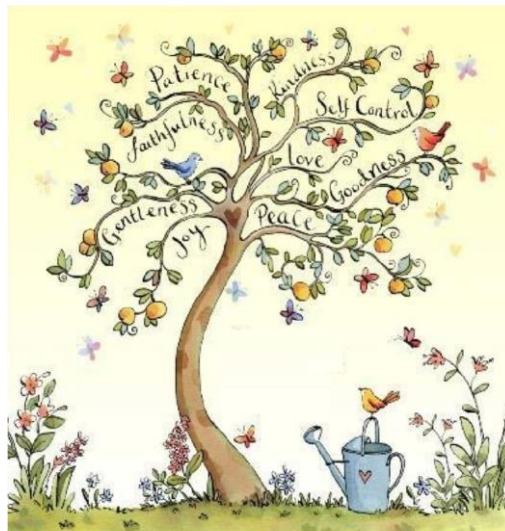


Foston and Terrington CE Federation in collaboration with Stillington Community Primary School

Parents' Code of Conduct



Love, Learn and Grow Together

At Foston, Terrington and Stillington Schools 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. We believe that children benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our schools.

We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards school staff in order that our school community can continue to flourish in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own 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 own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour

Behaviour

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, where all can flourish, this policy outlines the steps that will be taken where parents' behaviour is unacceptable.

Types of behaviour that are considered serious and unacceptable, and will not be tolerated -this is not an exhaustive list but seeks to provide illustrations of unacceptable behaviour:

- Shouting and/or swearing at school staff, either in person or over the telephone.
- Physically intimidating a member of staff e.g. standing very close to him/her
- The use of aggressive hand gestures e.g. pointing in faces, two fingers raised
- Threatening school staff
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Shaking or holding a fist towards another person
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- 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).

- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social media sites - See Appendix 1.
- Racist, homophobic or sexist comments
- Breaking the school's security procedures
- Dogs being brought on to school premises

Procedure

Serious unacceptable behaviour will result in North Yorkshire County Council and the Police being informed of the incident. When a parent or member of the public behaves in an unacceptable way towards a member of the school staff, the headteacher or appropriate senior staff will seek to resolve the situation through discussion and mediation. If necessary, the school's complaints procedure should be followed. Where all procedures have been exhausted, and aggression or intimidation continue, or where there is an extreme act of violence, the Headteacher may ban a parent or carer from the school premises for a period of time, subject to review.

In the case of a ban, the following steps will be taken:

- The parent will be warned, in writing, that s/he is banned from the premises, subject to review, and what will happen if the ban is breached, e.g. that an injunction may follow.
- Where an assault has led to a ban, a statement indicating that the matter has been reported to North Yorkshire County Council and the Police will be included.
- The Chair of Governors will be informed of the ban.
- Where appropriate, arrangements for pupils being delivered to, and collected from the school gate will be clarified.

We trust that parents and carers will support the school with the implementation of this policy and expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting their children aware of this policy.

Appendix 1 - Inappropriate use of Social Network Sites

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils.

The Governors of Foston and Terrington Federation and Stillington School consider 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 about school 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 pupil or parent/carer of a child being educated at our schools 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 pupil 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 other sites. 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 an inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.