Commonswood Primary & Nursery School
Parents' Code of Conduct

Agreed by Governors: Spring Term 2021

At Commonswood School 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 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. 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 flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, 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 children.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own communication 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, 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 or manage children's behaviour.

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

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes, or threatens to interfere with, the operation of a classroom, office or any other area of the school and grounds including team matches.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Damaging or destroying school property including any items loaned e.g., reading books.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication including those of a harassing or unreasonable nature.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other networking. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher or senior member of staff so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Online activity that would cause the school, staff, pupils or others distress or bring the school community into disrepute.
- 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 possible negative actions towards their own child. Such may be seen to be an assault and may have legal consequences.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol whilst on school property. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events).
- Dogs (other than guide dogs) being brought on to school premises.

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 code of conduct and we thank you for your continuing support of our school. Please also make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

Online safety guide - Summary of key parent/carer responsibilities

The school provides online safety information for parents/carers, through the website, in newsletters and at events. It is important that parents/carers understand their key role in supporting children to behave appropriately and keep themselves safe online.

The online safety policy, supported by its acceptable use agreements, is intended to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community.

- Parents/carers are required to support their child in understanding and signing the Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils.

- Parents/carers may only use personal mobile phones and devices in designated areas of the school unless otherwise informed, e.g., for specific events and activities. Under no circumstance should images be taken at any time on school premises that include anyone other than their own child, unless there is a pre-specified agreement with individuals and parents/carers. When a parent/carer is on school premises but not in a designated area, their phone/s must be switched off and out of sight.

- Parents/carers should not assume that pupils can bring technological devices to school and should always check the school policy.

- All cyberbullying incidents affecting children in the school should be reported immediately. (If the incident involves an indecent image of a child the report must also be made immediately to the police for your own protection.) The school will investigate and respond to all reported cyberbullying incidents, liaising with others where appropriate. No reply should ever be sent to the sender/poster of cyberbullying content. If applicable block the sender and report abuse to the site. Evidence should be retained and shown in school and/or to the police. Evidence should not be forwarded.

- The school may choose to set up social media sites, blogs or have some other online presence in its own name. Parents/carers, however, do not have the right to set up any site, page, chat group or any other online presence that uses the school name or logo in any form.

- Any parent/carer distressed or concerned about an aspect of school should make immediate contact with a member of staff rather than posting their concerns online. Parents/carers should not share school related information or images online or post material that may bring the school or any individual within it into disrepute. Negative postings about the school would impact on the reputation of the whole school community. Parents/carers are encouraged to report breaches so that we can protect the reputation of the school, staff, pupils and parents/carers.

Please see the full online safety policy in the policies section on the school website.

Inappropriate use of social networking/messaging services

Social networking is being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and, in some cases, other parents/pupils. Governors consider this as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted, and they provide robust mechanisms to report 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. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying by inappropriate social network entry. We will deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare. We expect parents and carers to support the school's policy and help prevent their children from signing up to services such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Youtube whilst they are underage (13+ years in most cases). We also expect that parents will be responsible for closing online accounts that are found to be active for their underage children.

Thank you for abiding by this code in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also for all those who visit and work at the school. Please share this code with anyone dropping off and collecting children.