



Parent Code of Conduct

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1. Purpose and scope

At Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls we believe it is important to work in partnership with parents/ carers to support their child's learning.

Our aim is to:

- Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for students, staff and parents
- Model appropriate behaviour for our students at all times
- Listen to concerns and issues and seek to address these appropriately

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).

We expect parents/carers and visitors to set a good example to students at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.

This code of conduct aims to help the school work together with parents/carers by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents/carers' to refer to:

- Anyone with parental responsibility for a student
- Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

2. Our expectations of parents and carers

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 behaviour
- Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the appropriate member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern (refer to Home School Communication guidance)

3. Behaviour that will not be tolerated

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school has created a set of guidelines based on advice from the London Borough of Havering (**Keeping Schools Safe 2018**) and the Department for Education; this is outlined in the following sections of the document

Site Security

- Parents/carers must not drive on to the school site between 8am-4pm to drop/pick up their child unless they have permission
- Parents/carers cannot expect to see a member of staff unless they have made an appointment
- Dogs are not to be brought on to school premises (unless Guide dogs).
- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of any part of the school or its grounds (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches) will not be tolerated

Communication

The school will not tolerate:

- Swearing, abusive, offensive and/or insulting language as part of verbal (including voicemail/phone calls) or written (e-mails/letters) communication to members of staff, Governors, parents and carers, students and other users of the school premises.
- Offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students/parent/staff, at the school on social media websites.
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media

Behaviour

- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or student regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, students or other parents

Safeguarding

The use of physical aggression towards another adult, child or young person. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.

This includes:

- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the alleged 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).
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and consumption of alcohol (unless a licence has been granted through a school social event) or any illegal or harmful drugs whilst on school property.

Social Media

Social media is being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Headteachers, staff and in some cases other parents/ carers/students. The Local Governing Body consider the use of social media websites used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children, young people or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Head of Department, Progress Manager or a member of the Senior Leadership Team so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned. There is a Trust Complaints Policy and Procedure in place which should be used to raise any concerns or issues through the appropriate channels

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/ren / young person being educated at any LIFE schools is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on a social network site, 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 student 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/ young people or a parent/ carer to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying.

4. Breaching the Code of Conduct

If the school suspects, or becomes aware, that a parent has breached the Code of Conduct, the school will gather information from those involved and speak to the parent about the incident.

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

- Send a warning letter to the parent(s)/carer(s)
- Invite the parent(s)/carer(s) in to school to meet with a senior member of staff or the Head of School
- Contact the appropriate authorities (in cases of criminal behaviour)
- Seek advice from the trust's legal team regarding further action (in cases of conduct that may be libellous or slanderous)
- Ban the parent from the school site

The school will always respond to an incident in a proportional way. The final decision for how to respond to breaches of the code of conduct rests with the Joint Headteachers..

On the next page is a flowchart which shows the process that will followed

Flowchart for process to ban a parent from the school premises

